Wednesday, August 20, 2014

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A SINNER AT HEART

JESSICA ALBA'S BACK IN SIN CITY: A DAME TO KILL FOR, AND SHE'S NOT THE ONLY STAR ON BOARD

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Lost, but not forgotten

Art in Transit project focuses on the strange, sad tales behind lost items on the TTC — like 15 years' worth of original songs

PAGE 6

Kadri working harder than ever to improve

Leafs centre practising his shot and release in order to take his game to the next level

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I'd like one of those hidden jobs, please

About 80 per cent of positions aren't advertised. Here's how to get one anyway

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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Canada deports 10,000 a year

New CBSA figures. Some people are sent to war-torn countries or regions with repressive regimes

Canada deports more than 10,000 people every year, including some to states with "atrocious human rights records," according to newly released figures obtained by Torstar News Service.

While the vast majority of people are deported to countries in Europe and the Americas, refugees who've been denied asylum continue to be sent to war-torn places like Iraq and Afghanistan as well as states with repressive regimes like North Korea and Eritrea, records provided by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) show.

Because the CBSA — citing privacy legislation — does not release information about individual deportations, most Canadians hear only occasional anecdotes through the media. These figures provide a rare glimpse into a system that forcibly removes people from this country.

"I think this issue of deporting people to countries with atrocious human rights records is even more serious now than a few years ago," said Richard Goldman, coordinator of the Committee to Aid Refugees, after viewing the statistics.

"This is because changes introduced in 2012 have led to a much-accelerated refugee system with many people having no right of appeal."

Records prepared by the CBSA show that between the beginning of 2004 and the end of June this year, 148,057 people were deported, more than 70 per cent of whom were failed refugee claimants.

The number of rejected refugees deported each year grew from around 8,000 per year a decade ago to more than 13,000 in 2012. In 2013, the number fell back to 10,505.

More than 500 of these people were sent to the five countries where Canada has an official moratorium on deportations: Haiti, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Recently, deportations have also been temporarily halted to Gaza, Mali, certain regions in Somalia, Syria and the Central African Republic, wrote CBSA spokesperson Pierre Deveau in an email. Yet, records show that between eight and 37 people have been deported to these countries after their bans were brought into place.

The government gets around the moratorium by reserving the right to deport certain categories of people, including those with criminal records. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

NO PEACE IN FERGUSON

Police watch as protesters march Tuesday for Michael Brown, who was killed by police Aug. 9 in Ferguson, Mo. Ferguson's leaders urged residents Tuesday to stay home after dark to "allow peace to settle in" and pledged several actions to reconnect with the predominantly black community. For the story, see page 8. CHARLIE RIEDEL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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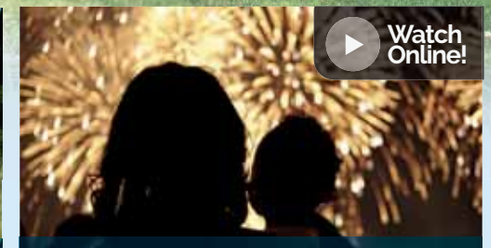

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Wastewater treatment

Mayor faces new allegations of conflict of interest

Mayor Rob Ford faces new conflict-of-interest allegations, for voting on a wastewater treatment program in which his family's company was enrolled.

Ford cast his vote on the program in November 2012 — at the council meeting that started the day after a judge found he had violated the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act with an earlier vote related to his football foundation.

At the three-day meeting that week, the mayor and his brother, Coun. Doug Ford, voted against a policy change that would have raised fees on many of the companies that have agreed to pay the municipal government to treat their wastewater.

One of the companies in that wastewater program is the Ford-owned Deco Adhesive Products. Both Rob Ford and Doug Ford are Deco directors.

The general manager of Toronto Water, Lou Di Gironimo, told Torstar News Service Tuesday that Deco has been part of the program since July 20, 2012. Di Gironimo said the other Ford brother, fellow director Randy Ford, signed Deco up.

Deco's participation in the program was not publicly known until it appeared on a 305-company list issued by Toronto Water last week.

Doug Ford, the company's president, called the criticism evidence of a "witch hunt." He said neither he nor the mayor had any idea Deco was part of the program at the time of the vote. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Colville retrospective comes to AGO

A cameraman films the art of Alex Colville during a media preview of the largest exhibition of the late Canadian painter's work ever assembled, at the Art Gallery of Ontario on Tuesday. More than 100 works by the Toronto-born icon will be presented to honour his legacy and explore the continuing impact of his work. Colville was made a Companion of the Order of Canada in 1982 and won a Governor General's Visual and Media Arts Award in 2003. The exhibition runs from Aug. 23 to January 2015.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Time to end booze monopoly: Report

LCBO. Expanding alcohol sales will mean more money saved for Ontarians, says C.D. Howe Institute

The "quasi-monopoly" held by the Liquor Control Board of Ontario and The Beer Store has hosed Ontario consumers long enough, a C.D. Howe Institute report says.

The right-wing think tank said the province should strip both of their almost-exclusive right to sell beer, wine and spirits, suggesting its report proves that opening up to alcohol sales to competition will mean lower prices.

"The lack of competition in Ontario's system for alcoholic beverage retailing causes higher prices for consumers and foregone government revenue," states the 30-page report, Uncorking a Strange Brew: The Need for More Competition in Ontario's Alcoholic Beverage Retailing System, to be released publicly Wednesday.

The report includes tables comparing Ontario beer prices to those in provinces with greater private-sector involvement, particularly Quebec, where a case of 24 domestic beer can be as much as $10 cheaper, and even more for imported brands.

Since 1927 when the Liquor Control Act was passed, the Liquor Control Board of Ontario and the privately owned Brewers Warehousing Company Limited have had a stranglehold on alcohol sales in the province.

"The Beer Store's quasi-monopoly of beer retailing is ... an anachronism," the report says, referring to the foreign-owned private retailer that is protected by provincial legislation.

For almost 30 years, provincial governments of various stripe have talked about opening up competition but have bowed to political pressure from the brewers and fears that competition would kill the golden goose — the LCBO, which in 2013-14 pumped $1.74 billion into government coffers, excluding taxes.

"Those profiting from the status quo ... have a major stake in it and strongly oppose reform," the report says.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Possibilities

The report insists the province would see more money and consumers would pay less if it allowed the sale of beer and wine in grocery and convenience stores as in Quebec, allowed other retailers to sell beer and freed up wine retailing — now limited to certain industry-owned stores, the LCBO and on-site sales by wineries.

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Sikhs denied exemption from Ontario's helmet law

Safety versus faith. Premier says she struggled with decision

Ontario won't allow turban-wearing Sikhs to ride a motorcycle without wearing a helmet, a decision the Canadian Sikh Association called "deeply" disappointing.

Premier Kathleen Wynne wrote to the organization last week, saying she had struggled with striking the right balance between public safety and religious accommodation.

"After careful deliberation, we have determined that we will not grant this type of exemption as it would pose a road safety risk," she wrote in the Aug. 14 letter.

"Ultimately, the safety of Ontarians is my utmost priority, and I cannot justify setting that concern aside on this issue."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Preparing for Cirque du Soleil

Workers prepare the parking lot at 51 Commissioners St. on Tuesday for Cirque du Soleil's giant tent that will house their show Kurios, opening Aug. 28. Kurios is inspired by the late 19th century, when railroads made travel more accessible.

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Health. More research needed before banning e-cigarettes: Premier

Premier Kathleen Wynne says she won't rush into a decision on whether to ban electronic cigarettes in areas where smoking is already off-limits.

She says the Ministry of Health will look at the issue and more research needs to be done.

Toronto's board of health is calling on the province to step in by February or it will start looking at its own restrictions within the city.

It wants the province to also ban sales of flavoured e-cigarette products, displays in retail stores and selling the battery-operated cigarettes to those under the age of 19.

E-cigarettes don't contain tobacco and produce vapour instead of smoke, which some say helps smokers kick their habit.

But Toronto's medical officer of health is advocating for the restrictions due to "possible health risks associated with exposure to second-hand vapour."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Olatoyebi Waheed

Toronto police ID man shot dead in car stopped at red light

Toronto police have identified a 24-year-old man shot dead while stopped at a red light in what investigators are calling a targeted shooting.

Police say Olatoyebi Waheed was driving a car stopped at a light (at Eglinton Avenue West and Jane Street) in the city's west end on Monday night when a suspect opened fire.

Waheed was killed by a gunshot wound to the chest and his 23-year-old male passenger was taken to hospital with serious injuries but is expected to survive.

Police say they've now recovered the black SUV believed to have been used by the suspected killer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Death of Shakeil Boothe

Local couple appeal murder conviction

A Toronto-area couple who killed the man's 10-year-old son after months of abuse that involved chaining the boy to his bed wants its second-degree murder conviction overturned.

Garfield Boothe and Nichelle Boothe-Rowe, both found guilty in April in the death of Shakeil Boothe, have each filed a notice of appeal.

In her notice, Boothe-Rowe says she is appealing on the grounds that "the judge erred in charging the jury and as a result, the verdict/conviction was unreasonable."

Boothe, meanwhile, lists among the grounds of appeal that Ontario Superior Court Justice Fletcher Dawson refused to try him and his wife separately. He also writes that Dawson refused to declare a mistrial "based on conduct of co-accused" and argues that the cross-examination he endured from his wife's lawyer was "unfair." THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

For more local news, go to metronews.ca

Plan moves ahead for a better Better Way

Next stop: City council.
Improved TTC service gets initial approval

A package of transit improvements — including allowing riders to board streetcars through the back doors — has been approved in principle by TTC commissioners.

Tuesday's decision is intended to give people better service on the existing system while they wait for large expansion projects to be completed over the next seven to 20 years.

It will be up to city council to decide whether to fund the plan, which requires operating funds of $19 million in 2015, growing to $69 million by 2018. It also requires $288 million over five years to buy extra vehicles and build the McNicoll bus garage.

"The whole point of this report was to identify things that could and should, in our professional opinion, be done right now," TTC chief executive Andy Byford told reporters after the vote.

The centrepiece of the plan is the proof-of-payment (POP) honour system that would speed vehicle progress, allow rear-door streetcar boarding and reduce bunching and short turns. It would require about 100 fare inspectors costing $8 million annually.

Other elements include increasing service on 45 bus and streetcar routes; cutting wait times to 10 minutes or less on many routes, and expanding express bus service.

And it would give riders paying with cash or tokens the ability to travel for two hours using a time-based transfer, which the TTC says would result in a $20-million annual revenue loss.

Byford warned that transit service will deteriorate if the proposals aren't funded and implemented.

"If we don't take steps to improve the customer's experience now, I think the TTC will just slowly decline," he said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mayor Rob Ford signs an Italian soccer ball for a young boy named Mick at Jack's Eatery on Tuesday. Ford said he supports most of the measures identified by the TTC in a new report, but not the honour system. CENTRAL IMAGE AGENCY/FOR METRO

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I was the target of my murder plot: Pan

Hann Pan and Bich Ha Pan in an undated photo. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

After Jennifer Pan's plan to have her father shot dead at his workplace for $1,300 fell through at the end of June 2010, she hatched a plan to have herself killed, she told the jury Tuesday morning at her murder trial.

"I believed I was a failure.... I had so many lies," she said, adding that she thought everyone would be better off without her.

But she changed her mind and tried to call off the suicide plan, she said, negotiating an $8,500 cancellation fee with a man she knew only as "Homeboy" with help from her longtime on-and-off boyfriend Daniel Wong.

She denies knowing that armed men would enter the Pan family home in Markham on the night of Nov. 8, 2010, and shoot her parents, Hann Pan and Bich Ha Pan, killing her mother and leaving her father in a coma for days.

Pan's lawyer, Paul Cooper, said in an opening statement to the jury that Pan is expected to testify that she was held at gunpoint in the home that night and ordered to hand over money.

The Crown's theory is that Pan, caught after years of lying to her parents about her boyfriend and attending university, was given an ultimatum by her father Hann Pan: Stay home and attend college or go with Wong and never come back. Her father added that she could be with Wong only "over his dead body."

Pan, motivated by resentment and the inheritance she expected to receive upon her parents' death, asked Wong to put her in touch with someone who could murder her parents, the Crown alleges.

Pan's testimony continues Wednesday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The charges

Jennifer Pan, her longtime on-and-off boyfriend Daniel Wong and three other men — Lenford Crawford, Eric Carty and David Mylvaganam — are charged with first-degree murder, attempted murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

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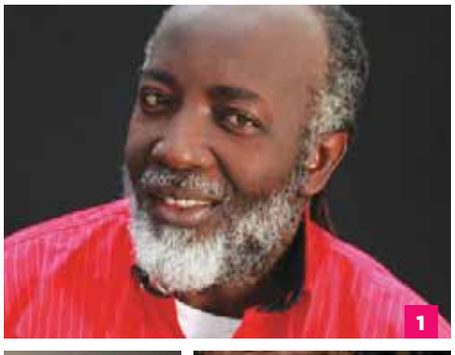

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TIFF unveils star-studded guest list

A-list. Pink Floyd frontman Roger Waters chooses T.O. for world premiere of his film

Roger Waters, performing here in 2007, will do some Q&A sessions for the world premiere of Roger Waters The Wall at TIFF. MAT SZWAJKOS/GETTY IMAGES

A galaxy of stars plus The Wall and the Street are coming to next month's Toronto International Film Festival.

TIFF unveiled its celebrity guest list Tuesday for its Sept. 4-14 celebration, with many familiar names among the 500-plus people on it.

Actors headed this way include Bill Murray, Robert Downey Jr., Kate Winslet, Reese Witherspoon, Denzel Washington, Jennifer Aniston, Kristen Wiig, Steve Carell, Morgan Freeman, Jane Fonda, Tina Fey, Michael Douglas, Dustin Hoffman, Christopher Plummer, Adam Sandler, Jason Bateman, Al Pacino, Julianne Moore, Greta Gerwig and more.

Ex-Pink Floyd leader Roger Waters is coming full circle by choosing Toronto for the world premiere of Roger Waters The Wall, a film of his four-year global tour he co-directed with Sean Evans, recreating the songs of his former band's grandest album. Waters began his The Wall Live tour in Toronto during TIFF 2010, so the film event will be a homecoming of sorts for him — and Bailey said the rocker is keen to reconnect with Toronto audiences by participating in Q&A sessions.

"The great thing is he's actually doing it twice — the Saturday night at the Elgin and the Sunday at the Ryerson. He has promised that he will attend both screenings to introduce them and do a Q&A," said Bailey. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Festival Street initiative

Pedestrian promenade

The festival also unveiled details of its new Festival Street initiative, which will see King from University to Peter Street turned into a pedestrian promenade and art and music fair during the first four days of the festival, Sept. 4 to 7. Highlights of Festival Street include a photo booth featuring HAL 9000 from 2001: A Space Odyssey, plus strolling characters from various Stanley Kubrick films, aimed at promoting TIFF's major Kubrick exhibit later this fall.

TTC art project seeks lost items

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
jessica.smithcross@metronews.ca

One man lost his songbook and guitar on the TTC: 15 years worth of original compositions, gone.

A student lost a cellphone with a year's worth of daily selfies, taken as part of an art project.

One man, now near the end of his life, lost Gladys, the love of his life, in 1969. He's hoping to find her again.

The Things We Lost is an upcoming Art in Transit project that will appear on billboards and digital monitors in subway stations this fall. It's created by Labspace studios, based on real stories of lost things submitted by the public.

The idea behind the project is twofold, according to director/curator Laura Mendes.

"The first is functional — we do hope that in creating these lost and found portraits we can connect people with their lost things but also, there's another side of the project that is a little more ephemeral," she said. "We want to work with people who want to let go of their lost things. By working with us, they're paying tribute to the past that cannot be changed."

Reporter Jessica Smith Cross's engagement ring is seen in the fare box at the Yonge/Bloor subway station. JESSICA SMITH CROSS/METRO

On my way home from work one night last winter, shortly after I was married, I dropped my engagement ring into the fare box at Yonge and Bloor station along with my change. At first, I laughed. Only me — who loses, drops and breaks everything — could manage that.

Then I learned that the man in the booth couldn't get my ring out of there.

It turns out no one can access the inside of a fare box. The man in the booth called his supervisor. The three of us stood there, staring at the ring. I was panicking. It wasn't only my engagement ring, it had belonged to my grandmother and great-grandmother.

The supervisor informed me that, actually, I wasn't the only one to do this. It's happened before and the TTC has a system in place to deal with it.

When the TTC employee drops the bottom out of the fare box, my ring and all the change will go into a bag which will be labelled, the contents sorted and my ring delivered to the Lost and Found office at Bay station. I'll get a call when it gets there, he said. A couple of days, he said, tops.

I didn't hear anything. I started calling customer service constantly and took to dropping by the lost and found office, increasingly worried that something had gone wrong — and I was responsible for the loss of four generations of family history and what was supposed to be the symbol of my lifelong love.

Then, three weeks later, I got the call. It was found.

The Things We Lost

Wednesday, Aug. 20, is the last day submissions can be made. To submit your story of the thing you lost, go to thethingswelose.com.

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World's focus remains on Ferguson

Missouri National Guard troops are deployed to provide protection for a police command centre, on Tuesday in Ferguson, Mo.

JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

Statement from the city

'We plan to learn from this tragedy'

Ferguson's leaders urged residents Tuesday to stay home after dark and pledged to reconnect with the predominantly black community. According to a statement, officials are exploring how to increase the number of African-American applicants to the law enforcement academy.

"We plan to learn from this tragedy," the leaders said in the statement.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protests continue

2 shot, 31 held in Ferguson, cops kill suspect in St. Louis

The National Guard on Monday stood by during another night of unrest in Ferguson.

Capt. Ron Johnson of the Missouri Highway Patrol, said at least two people were shot and 31 were arrested.

A crowd also gathered Tuesday afternoon in nearby St. Louis after officers responding to a report of a store robbery shot and killed a knife-wielding man. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scan this photo with your Metro News app to see a gallery of photos from the protests in Ferguson. GETTY IMAGES

Journalists in the middle

- A photographer for Getty Images was arrested while covering the demonstrations and later released.
- Two German reporters were arrested and detained for three hours.
- Capt. Ron Johnson of the Missouri Highway Patrol said it was a matter of safety. He said in some cases it was not clear who was a reporter but once it was established, police acted properly.

NFLers show support

11

In a show of solidarity with protesters in Ferguson, 11 players on the Washington Redskins emerged from the stadium Monday night with hands raised and palms forward.

Washington Redskins' Brandon Meriweather THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hundreds rally in Halifax in show of support for Ferguson

Dressed in her white and black collar with a silver cross dangling from her neck, Rev. Dr. Rhonda Britton marched with her hands raised above her head, as her voice resounded with a cry for justice.

"Who am I?" she chanted.

"Mike Brown," the crowd of nearly 500 people shouted back.

The pastor of Cornwallis Street Baptist Church in Halifax, along with other elders and youth from the city's black community, led a march through downtown Halifax on Tuesday evening to show solidarity with the town of Ferguson, Mo., following the shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown.

Brown was unarmed when he was shot by a Missouri police officer after allegedly stealing cigars from a grocery store with a friend.

Rally organizer El Jones said she sees a strong connection between the teenager's death and the long history of racism and injustice that has plagued Nova Scotia's black community.

"Violence doesn't have to be in the form of a gun to be violent," she said. "Racism happens in covert ways as well as overt ways."

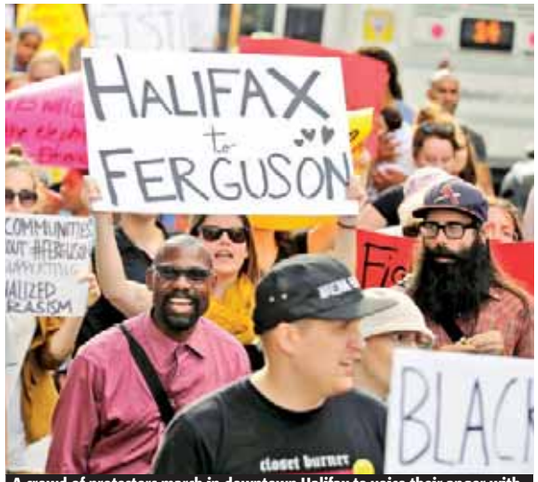
From the destruction of Africville to today's high rates of poverty and crime, Jones believes it's time for black people to come together and raise their voice for change.

Members of the crowd — which included black, white and other races — held signs that read, "hands up, don't shoot," and "it could have been me."

They eventually gathered in front of the United States Consulate to hear different speakers share their experiences of racism, where Britton left the crowd with a message of hope.

"We are one world, one people, one human race and and every single one of us has value," she said.

STEPHANIE TAYLOR/ FOR METRO IN HALIFAX



A crowd of protestors march in downtown Halifax to voice their anger with the situation in Ferguson, Mo., on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO IN HALIFAX

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Khurram Sher leaves a court in Ottawa on Aug. 19. Sher had been charged with conspiring to facilitate terrorism, however he was found not guilty Tuesday. It's believed this is the first acquittal under the Canadian Anti-Terrorism Act. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ontario terror suspect not guilty

London. Local doctor has been acquitted of conspiracy to commit terror charges.

Khurram Sher, a doctor from London, Ont., was found not guilty Tuesday of conspiring to facilitate terrorism — believed to be the first acquittal at trial of someone charged under Canada's Anti-Terrorism Act.

There have been a number of other cases that have arisen from Canada's anti-terrorism laws since 2001:

In 2010, police made three high-profile arrests in an alleged plot to commit acts of terror on Canadian soil.

In 2009, software engineer Momin Khawaja, the first person charged under the Anti-Terrorism Act, was convicted for his role in a plot to plant fertilizer bombs in the United Kingdom. Khawaja is serving a life sentence,

In 2006, police in Toronto arrested a large group of young men who later became known as the Toronto 18. They are accused of plotting to bomb targets including the Toronto Stock Exchange, CSIS headquarters and a military base. Eleven were ultimately convicted.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian terror

Since its advent, many have been charged under the Anti-Terrorism Act

- **Mohamed Hersi.** In July he was sentenced to 10 years for alledgedly trying to travel overseas to join a terrorist group.

Germany

Unexploded U.K. bomb found

German authorities have found an unexploded World War II bomb by a highway close to Frankfurt airport and an operation to defuse it may cause flight disruptions.

The 500-kilogram British bomb was found during construction work and police were working to defuse it Tuesday evening.

Allied airplanes dropped millions of tons of ordinance on Germany during the Second World War. Unexploded bombs are still found frequently.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Veteran poverty. New report says Canada's vets are undercompensated

A new report by Canada's veterans watchdog says nearly half of Canada's most disabled ex-soldiers are not receiving a government allowance intended to compensate them for their physical and mental wounds.

Veterans ombudsman Guy Parent concluded that those receiving the permanent impairment allowance, along with a recently introduced supplement, are only awarded the lowest grade of the benefit.

The criteria used to evaluate disability do not match the intent of the allowance, and the guidelines are too restrictive, the report said.

"The evidence presented in the report clearly demonstrates that many severely impaired veterans are either not receiving these benefits or may be receiving them at a grade level that is too low,'" Parent said in a statement.

The report also notes that when a veteran dies, the spouse automatically loses the allowance, creating financial hardship for the family. Under the old Pension Act system, the widow or widower continued to receive support.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A man walks by the crash site of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17. All 298 on board were killed in the crash after the Boeing 777 was shot down in eastern Ukraine. DMITRY LOVETSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Malaysian air crash victims coming home

Ukraine. The bodies of at least 15 Malaysians killed on Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 are expected to be sent home this week

The remains of at least 15 Malaysians killed when a jetliner was shot down over Ukraine will be returned to their home country this week, the first Malaysian victims of the disaster to be flown home, the country's defence minister said Tuesday.

All 298 people on board died when the plane was shot down on July 17. The plane was flying to Kuala Lumpur from Amsterdam and was shot out of the sky over an area of eastern Ukraine controlled by pro-Russia separatists.

Altogether there were 43 Malaysian victims and 195 Dutch nationals, 127 of which have been identified, Dutch authorities said.

Blame for the crash has been laid at the feet of Ukrainian separatists.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Malaysia Airlines victims

Dutch authorities have identified many of the victims' bodies from the tragedy.

- **195 Dutch nationals killed.** Of those, 127 have been identified.
- **43 Malaysians killed.** Authorities have been able to identify 28 bodies.

University of B.C. Bigger brains make fish more protective of their young

Size does matter, at least when it comes to the parental duties in one species of fish.

Researchers at the University of B.C. studying male stickleback fish found that those who care for their offspring have larger brains than their counterparts that don't protect their young.

"This suggests that regular sticklebacks have bigger brains to handle the brain power needed to care for and protect their young," said lead author Kieran Samuk, a PhD student in UBC's Department of Zoology.

Stickleback fish are known in the animal world for the fact that the male of the species, rather than the female, care for the offspring.

"Instead of caring for the eggs in a nest, they hide them so then the male doesn't have to do any of his normal parent stuff," he said.

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Rocket fire brings Israel-Hamas talks to end

Negotiations' fate in question. Israel walks out of Egypt talks, raising fears of resumption of fighting

An Egyptian effort to broker an end to a month-long war between Israel and Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip appeared to collapse Tuesday after Israel walked out on the talks in response to a barrage of Palestinian rocket fire.

"The Cairo talks were based on an agreed premise of a total cessation of hostilities," Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev said. "When Hamas breaks the ceasefire, they also break the premise for the Cairo talks. Accordingly, the Israeli team has been called back as a result of today's rocket fire."

The breakdown dealt a harsh blow to nearly a week of Egyptian-led diplomacy meant to end weeks of the heaviest fighting between Israel and Hamas since the Islamic militant group seized control of Gaza in 2007.

Hours before Tuesday's deadline, Palestinian militants fired three rockets into Israel. The military said the rockets landed in open areas near the southern Israeli city of Beersheba. Later, Israel said it intercepted two more rockets over southern Israel.

Hamas police officials in Gaza said there were at least 25 airstrikes across Gaza. Medical officials said seven people were wounded, including two children. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smoke rises after an Israeli strike hit Gaza City in the northern Gaza Strip, Tuesday. ADEL HANA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Pakistan. Protesters rip through roadblocks in march to parliament

Tens of thousands of anti-government protesters armed with wire cutters and backed by cranes marched on Pakistan's parliament Tuesday, removing barriers which blocked them from soldiers guarding the seat of the country's government.

The protesters, wearing masks and carrying makeshift shields, hammered through barriers — constructed of barbed wire and locks connecting shipping containers — that authorities put on roads to protect Islamabad's so-called Red Zone, which also holds the president and prime minister's ceremonial homes and many diplomatic posts.

Women and children joined men in the march as police officers stood by and watched, setting up a possible showdown later between hundreds of waiting soldiers and some 30,000 protesters backing opposition candidate Imran Khan and anti-government cleric Tahir-ul-Qadri.

Both of those men have called on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to step down over allegations of fraud in last year's election. Sharif has refused and ordered the soldiers out into the streets, the first military deployment in the capital since Pakistan has been under civilian leadership. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A supporter of Pakistani cleric Tahir-ul-Qadri flashes victory signs during an anti-government protest in Islamabad, Pakistan, Monday. B.K. BANGASH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saudi Arabia

Top cleric says ISIS, al-Qaida are main enemy of Islam

Saudi Arabia's top cleric said Tuesday that extremism and the ideologies of groups like the Islamic State and al-Qaida are Islam's No. 1 enemy and that Muslims have been their first victims.

Grand Mufti Sheik Abdul-Aziz Al-Sheik also said terrorism has no place in Islam, and that the danger of extremists lies in their use of Islamic slogans to justify their actions. King Abdullah has been pressing clerics to condemn Islamic extremist groups since Saudi Arabia made it illegal for citizens to fight in conflicts abroad. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syria

ISIS video appears to show killing of U.S. journalist

The White House said Tuesday it has not confirmed the authenticity of a video that purports to show the killing of American journalist James Foley by Islamic State group militants. Foley, a freelance journalist from New Hampshire, went missing in Syria nearly two years ago.

White House National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said the administration has seen the video and that the intelligence community is working as quickly as possible to determine if it is authentic. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Death of aboriginal girl, age 15, renews calls for inquiry

Tina Fontaine. She had been in Winnipeg less than a month when she ran away from foster care

Tina Fontaine is seen in this undated handout photo. WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The death of a 15-year-old aboriginal girl found wrapped in a bag and dumped in the Red River is prompting renewed calls for a national inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women.

Tina Fontaine had been in Winnipeg less than a month when she ran away from foster care. Her petite body was discovered Sunday in the river and police are treating her death as a homicide.

Manitoba Aboriginal Affairs Minister Eric Robinson said his first thought when he heard about Tina's death was, "Not another one." For two decades, Robinson said, he's been working with aboriginal families who have lost daughters, sisters, aunts and mothers.

A national inquiry into missing and murdered aboriginal women is the only way many families will get the answers they deserve, Robinson suggested. So far, Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government has rebuffed all calls for such a probe.

"They don't view it as a priority," Robinson said. "I don't know what their policy advisers are telling them."

A spokeswoman for federal Justice Minister Peter MacKay said she was working on a response.

The discovery of her body has touched a nerve in Manitoba, where almost half the women who have been murdered since 1980 were aboriginal. A vigil to honour the teen was being planned for Tuesday evening near the docks where her body was found. THE CANADIAN PRESS

More lenient marijuana laws still on the table

Justice Minister Peter MacKay, speaking in Vancouver Tuesday, said the federal government is still assessing whether to allow police to ticket people caught with small amounts of marijuana instead of pursuing charges. But if government were to introduce looser pot laws, it would have to happen within the next six months, MacKay said. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mistaken for intruder

Florida woman shoots 7-year-old grandson

Sheriff's deputies in Florida say a seven-year-old boy is in critical condition after his grandmother mistook him for an intruder and shot him. The shooting happened around 1 a.m. Tuesday in Tampa.

According to Hillsborough County Sheriff's officials, 63-year-old Linda Maddox and her twin grandsons were sleeping after their father had left for work. Maddox told deputies she had placed a chair against the bedroom door handle for extra protection.

When she heard the chair sliding against the floor, she assumed it was an intruder and grabbed a loaded .22-calibre revolver she keeps by the bed and fired one shot in the dark toward the door. Deputies say seconds later she heard the screams of her grandson Tyler Maddox. He was shot once in the upper body. He was taken to a hospital. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Help right the wrong that is the Trivago Guy

Makeover. People are invited to post a photo on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram of what outfit they'd like to see unlikely star wearing in a new ad

When it comes to the Trivago Guy, everyone's a critic.

Why isn't the pitch man for the world's largest hotel search website wearing a belt? Why doesn't he shave? Why does he look so dishevelled?

The ads featuring 48-year-old American actor/musician Tim Williams have created a burgeoning Internet buzz since they began appearing on television last year.

The Trivago Guy YOUTUBE SCREEN GRAB

At last the company, based in Dusseldorf, Germany, has announced a Trivago Guy makeover contest, with the winner receiving a five-day trip to Berlin and a chance to watch the next commercial featuring the new and improved Williams.

People are invited to post a photo of what outfit they'd like to see Williams wearing on Trivago's Facebook contest page or via Twitter or Instagram, using the hashtag #trivagoGuy. The deadline is Aug. 24. Voting will begin on Aug. 28 on Facebook.

Williams is more than game for the fashion shakeup.

"Why not? I think it's fun and I would definitely like to have somebody else's opinion on my outfits," Williams said in an interview with CNN. "Do I need a makeover? No. Do I want one? Kind of, yeah."

The Houston-born Williams has just completed a stint playing an American rock star on the German soap opera Gute Zeiten, Schlechte Zeiten (Good Times, Bad Times). In the U.S., he has had minor roles on The Cosby Show and Law and Order. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Competition for Spotify?

Does YouTube hold the key to killer music streaming?

There is no clear indication of when YouTube is planning to launch its Spotify competitor, but when it does, it will offer users access to more than 20 million tracks as well as concert footage, remixes and smart recommendations.

According to Android Police, the new service will be called YouTube Music Key and when it goes live, it will be integrated into Google Play Music All Access — its parent company's existing music downloads and streaming service — so that subscribers will be able to stream either audio or video, a feature that none of its competitors currently offer.

A premium subscription will cost $9.99 a month but that will enable users to listen to music and watch videos without ads and to listen to tracks offline, too, or in the background.

YouTube's existing preference engine lets you do more than search tracks by artist or group. It also offers new videos to watch based on past viewing habits, and is expected to play a major role in helping users discover new songs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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'Weak safety culture' before derailment: Report

Lac-Mégantic, Que.

Report finds 18 factors, including lax oversight and poor training, led to the death of 47 people

Many factors contributed to the Lac-Mégantic train derailment in 2013, including lax safety measures at the company that owned the runaway train, the Transportation Safety Board of Canada said Tuesday.

The agency targeted Montreal, Maine and Atlantic Railway and Transport Canada in its final report.

"We now know why the situation developed over time," TSB chair Wendy Tadros told a news conference in Lac-Mégantic. "A weak safety culture at MMA, poor training of employees, tanker cars that didn't offer enough protection.

"And then Transport Canada didn't audit railways often enough and thoroughly enough to know how those companies were really managing, or not managing, risk." Tadros acknowledged the report will do nothing to bring back loved ones or to rebuild the devastated town.

"We know that, we do. But we can point the way to a better future, a safer future." Tadros said a multitude of factors played a role in the tragedy, which killed 47 people.

"Accidents never come down to a single individual, a single action or a single factor," she said. "You have to look at the whole context. In our investigation, we found 18 factors played a role in this accident."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Workers comb through debris after a train derailed July 9, 2013 causing explosions of railway cars carrying crude oil in Lac-Mégantic, Que. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Former fashion student

Top-selling bag nets student $0, lawsuit alleges

A former New York fashion student is claiming in a federal lawsuit that she designed a backpack for Barnes & Noble and hasn't made any money off the top-selling bag.

Diana Rubio was a student at Manhattan's Fashion Institute of Technology when she designed the "everything backpack" in 2010. The Daily News reports the school had assigned Rubio to enter Barnes & Noble's "Back to Campus" contest.

Rubio's bag won the contest and sells for $39.95 US. But Rubio says in a lawsuit that she never received any money from FIT or Barnes & Noble for her design. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

From burgers to java

McDonald's is lovin' the home coffee market

McDonald's plans to start selling its packaged coffee at supermarkets nationally in America by early next year, a move intended to help raise the profile of the coffee sold at its U.S. restaurants.

The world's biggest hamburger chain has made a deal with Kraft Foods to manufacture and distribute the bags of McCafé ground and whole bean coffee, as well as single-cup pods that can be used in at-home coffee machines. Other chains, such as Starbucks, Tim Hortons and Dunkin' Donuts, already sell branded packaged coffee at retailers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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LIVABLE JUST A SYNONYM FOR AWESOME

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

It's that time of year again, when the Economist Intelligence Unit publishes its global livability survey — and the results set everyone's hair on fire.

This year, I'm writing from the world's No. 3 most livable city, Vancouver. Apparently, Vancouver's not as livable as No. 1 Melbourne (for the fourth year in a row) and No. 2 Vienna. Try the Sachertorte.

But it's more livable than No. 4 Toronto and No. 5 Calgary, which, if you're a Vancouverite, just makes sense. The Economist operatives must check out the contending cities in January, when it's hard to tell Toronto or Calgary from Tuktoyaktuk.

The cities are judged on five categories: stability, health care, education, infrastructure, culture and environment, which is why Damascus, Syria, is currently one of the world's least livable cities according to the Economist. It has none of the above.

Those of us blessed with an abundance of stability, etc. do have a tendency to look our gift horses in the mouth.

Some of the comments in the Melbourne Herald Sun sound as though being in the world's most livable city isn't so hot:

"This story does not mention the high unemployment rate, the difficulties in finding work and the shortage of jobs, it doesn't include information such as housing shortages or affordability," gripes commenter Susan.

Or this from Barry: "Who the hell judges these things? A perfect score for health? They would have to be joking."

Every year, denizens of real cities such as London or Paris dismiss such nonsense with an imperial flick of the wrist. To hear them tell it, "livable" is a synonym for "boring". Mind the gap!

I'm celebrating my 25th year in the world's third-most-livable land and I have to admit, there are days — when the cloud cover is a couple metres above my head, it's so wet the seagulls look like drowned rats with wings, and there's a 30-minute wait to get across the "scenic" Lions Gate Bridge — that I'd rather be in Calgary. At least Damascus is usually sunny.

But there are days, such as today and most days, when there's nowhere else I'd rather be, swaddled in the soft virtues of Vancouver.

And I've felt the same way on an outdoor patio in the Beach or running along the Bow River in the sunshine, seconds from downtown.

Think about it. Three of the world's most livable cities, according to a reliable source, are in Canada. Only Australia, with four, does better.

And isn't that what we all want? A well-rounded diet of livability? If Vancouver were a vegetable it would be kale. Toronto's already got Cabbagetown. And in Calgary, fries are a vegetable, aren't they?

We must be doing something right. As we go forward into an uncertain future, it would be a good idea to remember that.

Wash your faces

Workers clean a clock face on the Elizabeth Tower of the Houses of Parliament on Tuesday. Workers are cleaning the four faces of the Great Clock, some 60 metres above ground. OLI SCARFF/GETTY IMAGES

Time stops as Great Clock gets a scrub-down

The clock face of the Elizabeth Tower, which houses the famous Big Ben bell in London, U.K., is being cleaned.

The bell will continue to chime, but the hands are frozen at 12 o'clock while four cleaners abseil down the front of the clock face. The tower was renamed Elizabeth Tower after the Queen to celebrate her Diamond Jubilee. Big Ben is actually only the bell, but many know the landmark by this name. BBC.COM

Word of the day

abseiler

Noun. A person who descends down a nearly vertical face by using a doubled rope that is wrapped around the body and attached to some high point.

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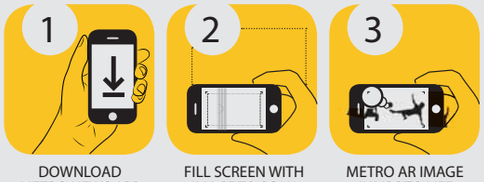

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In this issue, you can find AR enhancements on page 8 in News, page 19 in Scene and page 25 in Life

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MetroTube

A video so good, it's Barely Legal

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

The less we say about this segment from "just another pawn show," the better. So instead, we're going to arm you with a few basic facts:
1) It's a commercial for next week's broadcast of the Emmys.
2) The dependably hilarious Julia Louis-Dreyfus is frustrated.
3) Most importantly, Breaking Bad BFFs (it's complicated) Bryan Cranston and Aaron Paul reunite, which likely explains the warm feeling that mysteriously washed over you yesterday afternoon. (YouTube/Television Academy)

SCREENGRAB

metro

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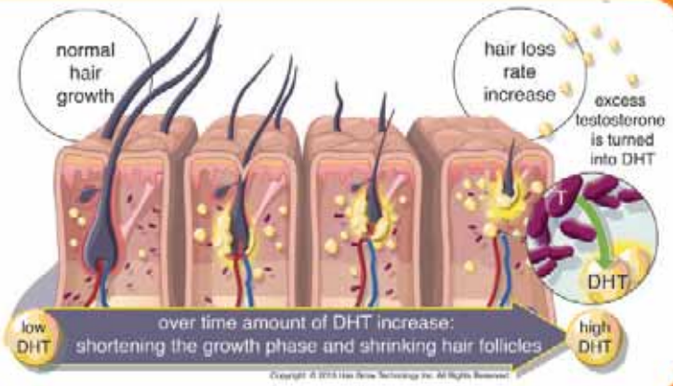

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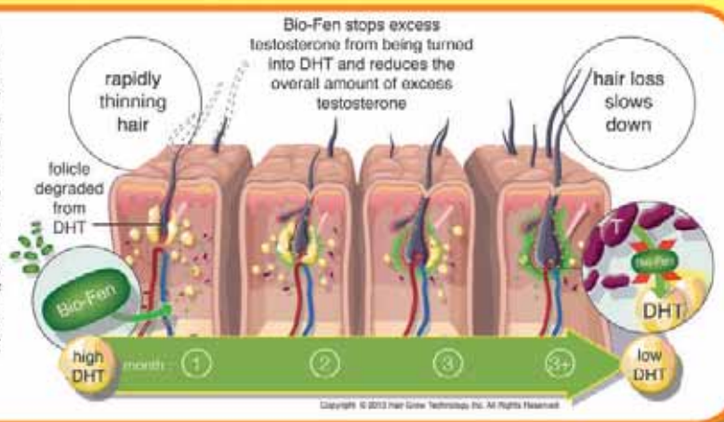

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Sin City: A cast to kill for

Going Gaga. Co-director Robert Rodriguez isn't the first to add a famous musician to an already star-studded cast

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

Robert Rodriguez, co-director of Sin City: A Dame to Kill For, has assembled an impressive cast of marquee names for the long awaited followup to 2005's Sin City.

Actors like Jessica Alba, Rosario Dawson and Bruce Willis are returning from the first instalment, while newcomers to the series include Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Eva Green and Josh Brolin.

Rodriguez welcomes back another name, Lady Gaga, who he first cast in Machete Kills.

"When I asked if she was interested in acting she said, 'I studied acting and I always wanted to be in one of your movies because of the theatricality and the showmanship."

When she finished shooting her role of a deadly assassin in Machete Kills, Rodriguez tweeted, "Holy Smokes. Blown away!" and promptly cast the singer in A Dame to Kill For.

For years, directors have looked to musicians to bring their natural charisma to the screen. Perhaps no one more than Nicolas Roeg has explored the potential for rock stars to become movie stars. "They have," he said, "a greater ability to light up the screen than actors."

In 1970 Roeg and co-director Donald Cammell made the psychedelic crime drama Performance, starring Mick Jagger in his first on screen role. The Rolling Stone played the mysterious Mr. Turner, a jaded former rock star who gives shelter to a violent East London gangster (James Fox). In 2009 Film Comment declared Mick Jagger's Turner the best performance by a musician in a movie.

Next came The Man Who Fell to Earth, an existential sci-fi film about an extraterrestrial named Thomas Jerome Newton, starring David Bowie in his feature film debut. Roeg says he "really came to believe that Bowie was a man who had come to Earth from another galaxy. He seemed to be alone — which is what Newton is in the film — isolated and alone."

Finally, in Bad Timing, Art Garfunkel of Simon and Garfunkel, stars as a professor living in Vienna whose sadistic relationship with a pill-addicted woman (Theresa Russell) ends with a battle for her life. The sexually explicit film was difficult for the actors, and at one point Garfunkel even wanted out. He stayed on, delivering a performance that the New York Times called "very credible."

Joseph Gordon-Levitt is one of the many A-listers featured in Sin City: A Dame to Kill For. CONTRIBUTED

AUGMENTED REALITY

→ Scan this photo with your Metro News app for an extended trailer of Sin City.

metro AR

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Profile

Alba doesn't mind being on call for Rodriguez

Jessica Alba has gotten used to vague phone calls from director Robert Rodriguez, the Austin-based auteur who has made a habit of putting Alba in his films.

"He calls me up and he is like, 'Can you come shoot this little thing?' And I'm like, OK, what is it?' 'Well, it's just this little movie, just come down for a couple of days,'" Alba says. "That is just what he does, and I am there. I show up every time because it is so inspiring to be in his world, his universe."

Sin City: A Dame to Kill For marks Alba's second time taking on Nancy, a hard-luck stripper with revenge on her mind. One thing she's learned from her time working with Rodriguez is that he's not big on giving her a head start, so she has to take matters into her own hands. "They snuck the script to me," she says. "I knew Robert was going to call me on Monday and ask me to show up on Thursday and I wouldn't have any time to prepare."

'... I worked with an acting coach to kind of get in that head space. I am a mom, I have two kids, I run a company. I am not like this, you know, drunk stripper girl. So I needed to work on it."

NED EHRBAR

GETTY IMAGES

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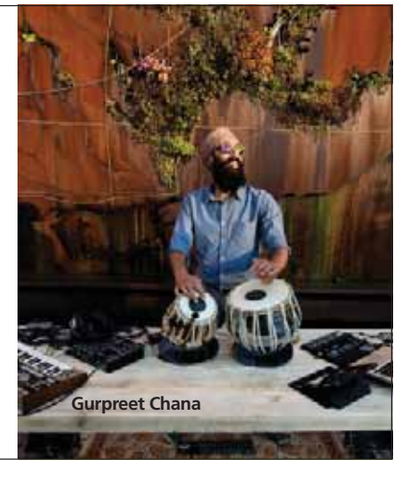
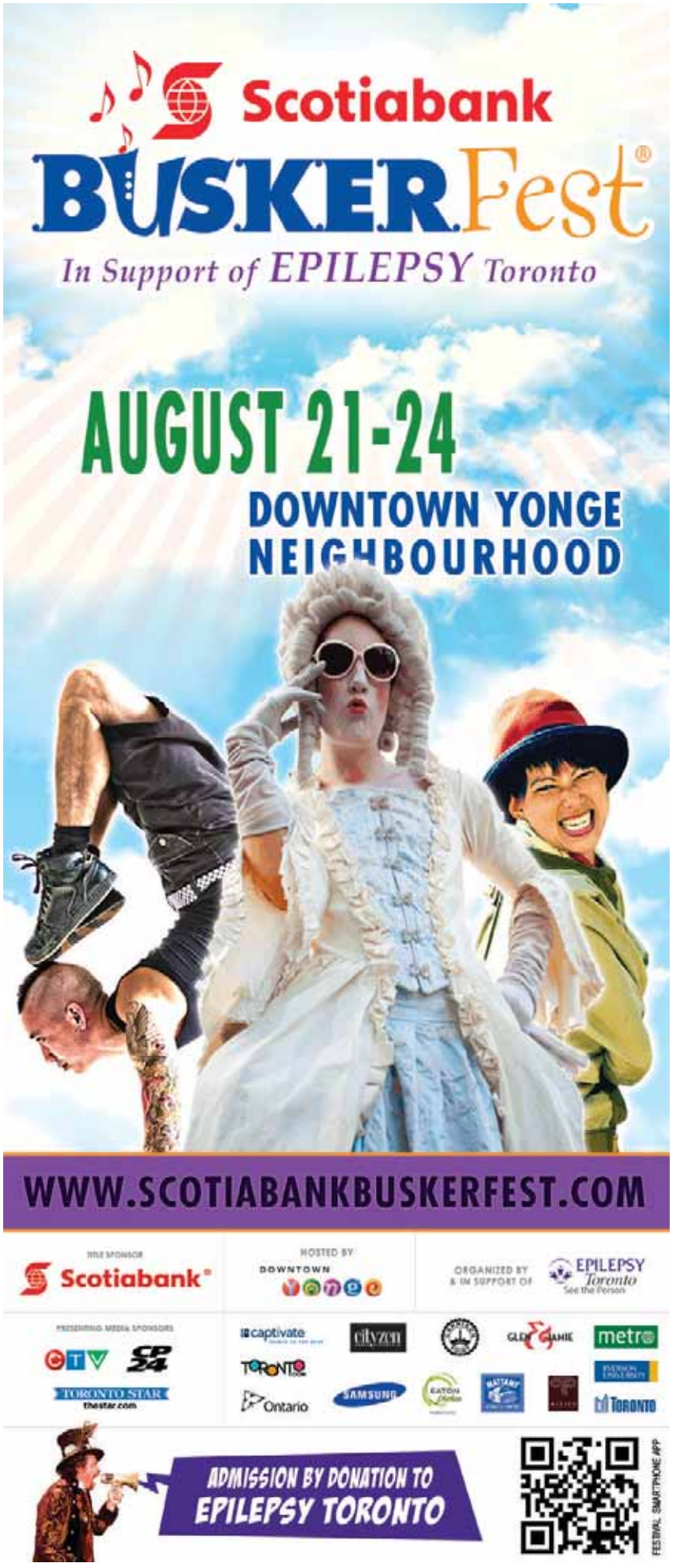


Gurpreet Chana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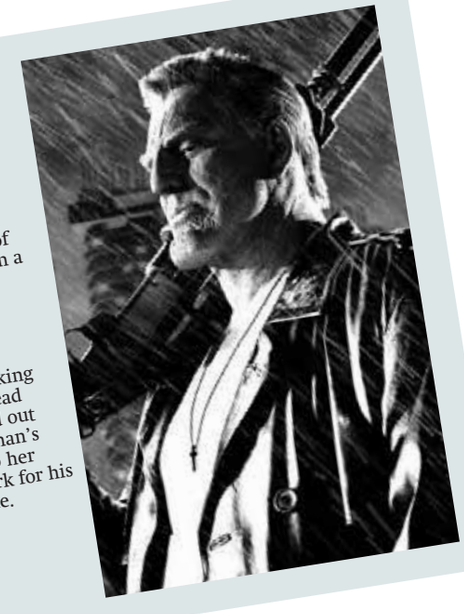
Sin City Rap Sheet

It's been nearly a decade since the grimy characters from Sin City brought pulp fiction to movie screens across the country. With the highly anticipated A Dame to Kill coming out, it's time to remind the public what seedy scoundrels will be lurking in Basin City come August 22nd.

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

Marv (Alias: Mickey Rourke)



Distinguishing features

Square-jawed, muscle-bound behemoth; often wears overcoats (which he frequently takes from his victims). Unethical except for an ironic sense of chivalry towards women; suffers from a condition of acute memory loss.

Charges

Multiple cases of murder. After waking up on a highway surrounded by dead bodies, Marv is determined to find out how he got there. As Nancy Callahan's protector, he is convinced to help her track down dubious Senator Roark for his involvement in Hartigan's suicide.

Weapons of choice

Shotguns, fists and head-butts

Nancy Callahan (Alias: Jessica Alba)

Distinguishing features

As an exotic dancer, she's often scantily dressed in leather; has dyed her hair black and now displays several self-inflicted scars on her face. Deemed unstable, she's often advised by apparitions of John Hartigan.

Charges

After being rescued when she was a child from an attempted rape by Senator Roark's son, Callahan now seeks revenge — enlisting Marv to assist her vengeance against the Senator as payback for Hartigan's death.

Weapons of choice

Crossbow, Marv

John Hartigan (Alias: Bruce Willis)

Distinguishing features

X-shaped scar on forehead, signature trench coat, suffered from angina.

Charges

An ex-cop, Hartigan was framed and imprisoned for the rape of Nancy Callahan in spite of the fact that he actually saved her.

Status

Deceased in 2005 (Sin City) from apparent suicide.

Ava Lord (Alias: Eva Green a.k.a. The Dame to Kill For)

Distinguishing features

Piercing green eyes, red lips and dark hair; often smoking cigarettes and barely dressed.

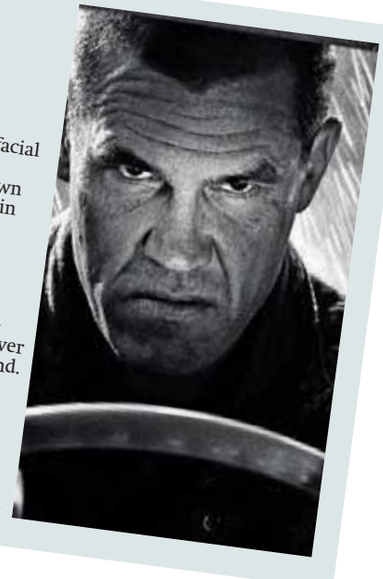
Charges

Dwight McCarthy's ex-lover; she's the cold-blooded mastermind behind his murderous attempt on her billionaire husband whom she claimed was abusive.

Weapons of choice

Deception and sex

Dwight McCarthy (Alias: Josh Brolin)



Distinguishing features

Although he resembles Josh Brolin, his facial features are eventually reconstructed by the prostitution gang the Girls of Old Town to more closely resemble Clive Owen (as in 2005's Sin City).

Charges

A private investigator-turned-vigilante, McCarthy is wanted for murder after his ex-lover Ava Lord sets him up to kill her rich husband. He enlists Marv's help to storm the billionaire's mansion.

Weapons of choice

Proficient physical fighter, skilled marksman

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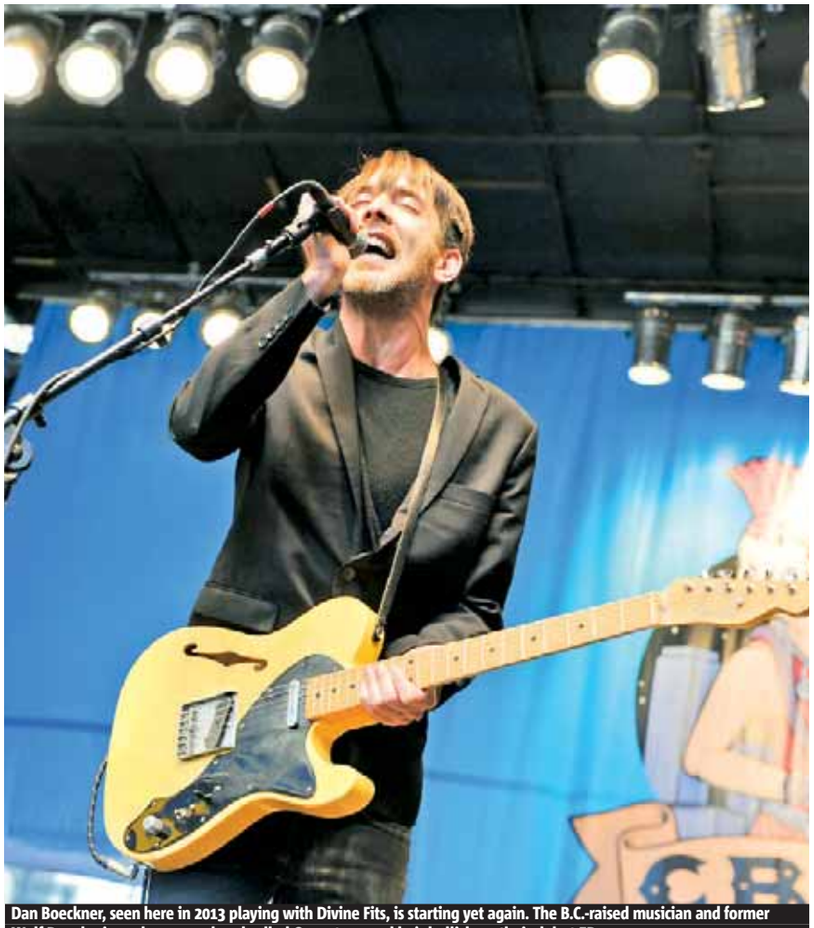
Out of a dark tunnel and into the light

Dan Boeckner. B.C. songwriter's new band and music is bright, hooky and danceable



Dan Boeckner, seen here in 2013 playing with Divine Fits, is starting yet again. The B.C.-raised musician and former Wolf Parade singer has a new band called Operators, and he's bullish on their debut EP. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Should Dan Boeckner ever want to place himself at a particular point in his life, he needs only to pluck one of his records off the shelf.

With mid-'00s indie innovators Wolf Parade, his cage-rattling howls were "reflective of being in British Columbia in a small town," he explains.

In his next operation, the serrated synth-pop duo Handsome Furs, he and ex-wife Alexei Perry performed libidinous odes to the exotic locales blurring through their tour-van window.

And his lyrically bleak contributions to his last project, the sinewy Britt Daniel collaboration Divine Fits, were admittedly coloured by the breakup of that marriage.

"Divine Fits was essentially a breakup record," he said on the line from South Dakota, between gigs on tour with Future Islands. "My life took a major, 180-degree turn, and it was catharsis."

If applying that theory to his latest project, a recently released EP by a band he's fronting called Operators, it would seem that Boeckner has navigated his way out of that tunnel and into the warm sunlight.

Sure, the five songs collected on the band's inaugural release are nervy and tense, but they're also bright, hooky and unabashedly danceable to an extent his more jarring Handsome Furs compositions never quite managed.

And indeed, the sunnyish tunes reflect a fertile period in Boeckner's life following a move to San Jose, Calif.

"In the last year or so, writing these songs has been the most productive, creative period of my life," said the 36-year-old, who grew up in Lake Cowichan, B.C.

"I got settled with myself. I came out of that period with Divine Fits feeling good, and I had kind of a breakthrough musically with the type of material I was writing and how I was putting it together."

Mostly gone are the guitars, as Boeckner — increasingly adept with synths, sequencers and other electronics — burrowed deeply as a listener into U.K. underground electronic, acid house and disco. So Ancient is built on a "mutated acid house riff, kind of melted down in the sequencer" and first single, True, struts to a vibrant groove.

The whole album is likely more gleefully enthusiastic than anything Boeckner's done, and there's an increased immediacy in some of the hooks. And it was intentional.

"When I'm writing, there's this thing I try to ignore, which is the imagined audience," he said. "For me, they're a roomful of people and, in my mind, they know everything I've done and they like specific things and those things happen to line up with what I like best.

"It's totally unrealistic. It's a fantasy. And I think if you start writing for these people, second-guessing yourself, you've blown it right off the bat.

"So with this record I thought, if something was really poppy ... it stays. If it feels good, it stays on the record."

For all the ways in which EP1 marks new territory for the guitarist, it still clearly follows in the lineage of Boeckner's live-wire style.

His contributions to all four of his best-known projects have shared a sensibility that's distinctly his. If not, he might have struggled to stitch together a fan base that will follow him from project to project.

"I've been incredibly lucky," he said, "that people have followed me through four different iterations of bands."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New direction

"Writing these songs has been the most productive, creative period of my life. I got settled with myself."

Dan Boeckner, Operators
On his band's recently released EP, which is called EP1

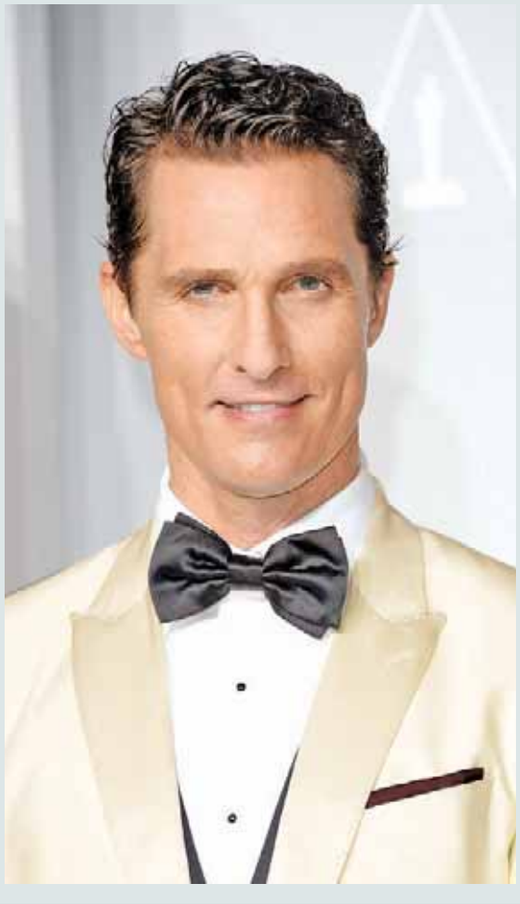
METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

This is so not what we thought Matthew would be packin'

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood



This is of great cultural significance, so pay attention: Matthew McConaughey has officially vouched for the fanny pack, so it's cool again (if it was ever cool). The Dallas Buyers Club star wore one to a Red Sox-Astros game recently — and even defended the accessory to CSN Houston's Julia Morales. "I'm not afraid of the fanny pack," McConaughey said. "You've got to kind of put it on the side to make it look a little not as nerdy, but still, practicality wins out. I got so much gear in here that I don't want in my pockets." Hoo boy. I mean, I know McConaughey is a dad now, but I had no idea he was such, you know, a ... dad.

On the plus side, if they really do become popular again, we'll have a whole new round of explaining why the name makes British people titter.

Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Skywriting's the limit as Ellen and Portia celebrate their sixth anniversary

If there's one thing famous people are good at, it's setting unrealistic expectations for us normal folks. Case in point: Anyone having an anniversary soon, since Portia de Rossi went and set the bar way too high in celebrating her sixth anniversary with wife Ellen DeGeneres.

The talk show host posted a photo of the two smiling underneath the skywriting de Rossi had ordered for the day, with clouds spelling out "six." Skywriting! How are a nice dinner and some lotto tickets supposed to look after skywriting has been offered up as an option? Sheesh.

In a Moby Dick move, Franco gets naked for ALS Ice Bucket Challenge

James Franco

Getting a little tired of those ALS Ice Bucket Challenge videos? Well, don't worry, because James Franco is here to keep things interesting. Hollywood's reigning enfant terrible got doused in a shower and passed the challenge on to Zach Braff, Keegan Allen and Joey King by way of a piece of paper shielding his naked crotch. Classy, Jim. Though, to be fair, he wasn't completely naked. Never one to pass up a good literary reference or bad pun, Franco wore a "Moby Dick" T-shirt. Thar she blows, indeed.

ATTENTION READERS...

Metro Newspaper and CTV's Canada AM are excited for the incredible entertainment coming to town for Scotiabank BuskerFest in support of Epilepsy Toronto this Thursday through Sunday in the Downtown Yonge neighbourhood.

To learn more about the over 160 performers from around the globe, check out the website ScotiabankBuskerFest.com

P.S. Irish Ambassador and Impresario Jack Wise would like to thank Canada AM's Beverly Thomson for choosing the Seven of Clubs!!!

LIFE 3

How-to

Reach inner peace before takeoff

1. The soft orange earplugs you can find anywhere are excellent for drowning out general aircraft cabin din, including the always-too-loud pre-flight announcements and the unhappy infants.
2. Once everyone in your row is seated, pop in said earplugs and tune out with your eyes shut.
3. If you'd rather wait till cruising altitude to sleep, start reading a book right away, while the rest of the plane fusses.
4. When you get the green light, slip on the Bose Noise-Cancelling Headphones, which are worth their weight in gold.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

Launch

Never too old to travel

Peregrine Adventures has recently arrived in Canada, offering travel treks that "get under the skin of a destination" for those 50 and over. Small-group trips zero in on staple spots like Peru and Turkey, plus more far-flung regions like Azerbaijan, Algeria, Namibia and the company's inaugural Canadian offering: a 14-day North Korea expedition. Operating since 1978, Peregrine has been taking the more "contemplative" crowd on adventure tours to more than 80 countries on seven continents. Local guides, private transportation, the works. Visit PeregrineAdventures.com. DOUG WALLACE/METRO

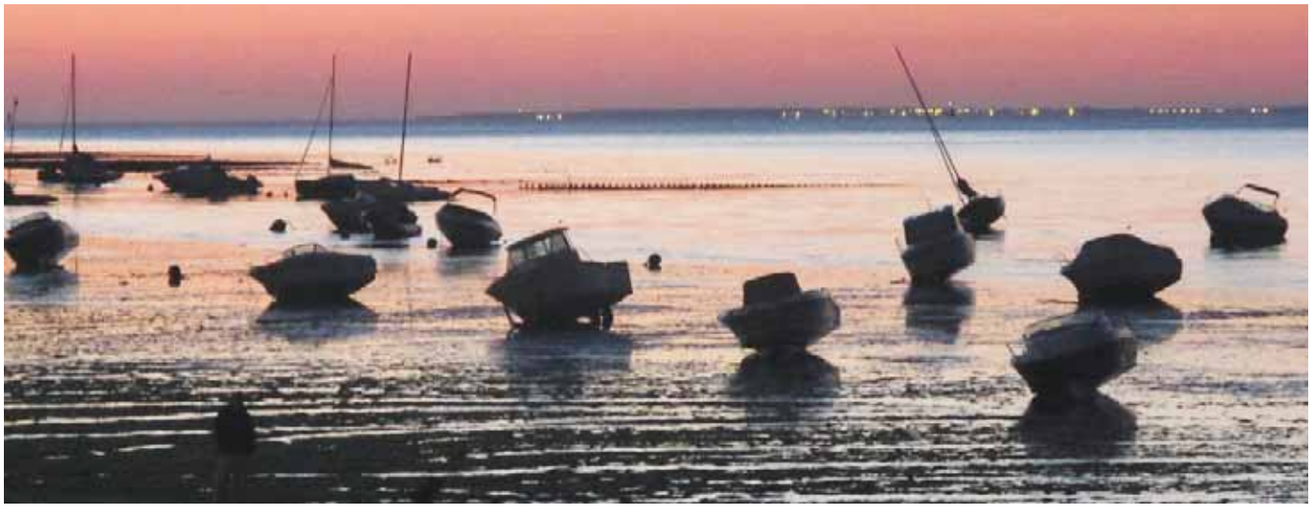
Deal

Banff or bust

Little known fact: The Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise offers the sixth and seventh nights free when you book five nights there. This Stay & Play package also comes with a $350 resort credit (per room) that you can use toward any of the hotel's Mountain Heritage Program activities (guided hiking, canoeing), at the spa or any of the eight hotel restaurants. This is a $900+ value.

DOUG WALLACE/METRO

France. Camp by the sea, not by the Champs-Élysées



Think camping is a Canadian pastime? In the land of Chanel, countless French families celebrate summer in the great outdoors at 10,000 campsites nationwide, half of Europe's total.

It's rural France at its most flexible and relaxed. Options range from frugal to fabulous. Pack a tent, fly into any French airport, rent a car and head out.

One such campground is the Ile de Re on the mid-Atlantic coast. The cost starts at 16 euro ($21.50) with a bridge toll.

Re is best seen by bicycle. The island, 30 kilometres long and 5 kilometres wide, is flat as a pancake with one of Europe's most extensive bicycling networks.

Paved paths run through salt beds and vineyards. Haggle at rental bike shops in one of the 10 villages, not at the campsite, to save money.

You can camp beside the beach on Re's sandy south coast. Nature here is genuinely wild: At high tide, the sand's been swallowed up; six hours later, you can walk a half kilometre into the Atlantic, in bath-like calm, before your feet leave the muddy sand.

Hundreds of parked bicycles — and zero cars — mark the beach entrances, flanked by surf schools and catamaran clubs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Squeezing the many luxuries of Lisbon into two short days

Portugal. Short on time? You can still lose yourself in this city — just make a promise you'll return for more

MANORI RAVINDRAN
life@metronews.ca

To make it in Lisbon, you need two things: a supernatural pair of walking shoes and an appetite for cod and green wine.

I had both, but fresh off the airport shuttle and wandering around the waffle-like Baixa neighbourhood — a jumble of criss-crossed streets and obscured signage — I'd also need to be OK with being comically lost all the time. Somewhere around here was a boutique hostel that would be my base for two days.

I'd been told that the Baixa's Living Lounge was a trailblazer in a city-wide hostel movement that has afforded travellers with such high standards that hostels have become synonymous with hotels. Once I'd located the second-floor hostel, slung my large backpack into a luggage-only elevator and waited for my room in a pristine living area with high ceilings, I understood why.

Later, in search of my first meal, recommended to me by the hostel owner, I slid along Rua da Prata's glossy mosaic tiles until the towering Arch of Triumph — a gateway to the Praça do Comércio or "Trade Square" — took my breath away. The majestic arch overlooks the river, and I walked along the Avenue Ribeira das Naus delighted to see the sidewalk slope into the waters of the Rio Tejo.

Lisbon's Arch of Triumph is sure to take your breath away. ISTOCK

Eventually, I found the unassuming Solar do Kadete, where the owners were cooking seafood on a blackened grill in the courtyard. Seated under a grubby white awning, my cravings were sated with the grilled bacalhau (cod) and vinho verde (green wine, due to its young age) of my dreams. After lunch, I ventured into the Bairro Alto, a hilly neighbourhood where yellow trams tremble through cobbled streets. Between the churches and viewpoints, there was enough here to pass an afternoon before dinner in the nearby Cais do Sodré area, where the fishing equipment shop-turned-restaurant Sol e Pesca offers hundreds of colourful tins of sardines and tuna.

The next morning, I took a bus west of downtown to the Belém district, where among the vestiges of Portugal's prosperity as a colonial power was the 177-year-old Casa Pastéis de Belém, the birthplace of the Portuguese custard tart, or pastel de nata.

It's not that I didn't value the Belém tower's river views or the Manueline architecture of the Jerónimos Monastery: I just appreciated a freshly baked nata lightly sprinkled with icing sugar and cinnamon so much more.

AUGMENTED REALITY

→ Scan this photo with your Metro News app the continue your photo tour of the Portuguese capital, Lisbon!

metro AR

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Back downtown, I had one remaining neighbourhood to explore: the Alfama. A similar muddle of streets greeted me as I wandered ever upwards along pastel-coloured homes, and underneath lines of washing, to the Moorish-style São Jorge Castle crowning the area. Walking along the castle's wide terrace I spotted the orange 25th of April Bridge in the distance — reminding me of San Francisco — and the mazes of the Bairro Alto and its terracotta rooftops across the way.

That night, I was back in the Bairro, sipping Darjeeling and nursing blistered feet at the Pavilhão Chinês (Chinese Pavilion). What had once been a grocery store was now an iconic bar with five rooms chock-full of the owner's collections of model warplanes, Japanese fans and inordinate kitsch in between. There was something for everyone in this bar. It figured. There was something for every traveller in this city.

Road trip. Hairpin turns and honey stands make the ride to Gooderham

Our trip this weekend takes us to the charming village of Gooderham. Located about two hours North of Toronto, it's an easily accessible destination to rent a cottage for a weekend, or to enjoy a scenic day trip.

The road

We decide to ride on some of Ontario's famed motorcycle routes and head north through Brooklin, then head east towards North Oshawa and Enniskillen. Even though it is blistering hot, the cool, crisp breeze coming off of Scugog River feels amazing as we travel along Hwy 36.

Pit stop

We make a quick pit stop at a local gas station that we always frequent in Buckhorn. The reason why we stop here is because there's a stand selling local Canadian wildflower unpasteurized honey and maple syrup.

We then head to one of Ontario's most famous highways for motorcyclists, and also one of the most dangerous: Highway 507.

The destination

Highway 507 is dubbed one of the most exhilarating highways for bikers, but also one of the most dangerous with frequent hairpin turns. When we enter the small village of Gooderham the sight of a lake and park greets us. We eat a quick snack before heading back home.

NATASHA BENE

Moto Diary

Natasha Bene

I grew up around motorcycles. My first time on the back of my dad's Honda CBR 900 street bike was at the tender age of 10. There's nothing I love more than the scent of bike fuel and the rush of adrenalin as I twist the throttle. Over the next few weeks, I will be sharing my family's motorcycle journeys with you.

Trip summary

- Total kilometres: 356
- Trip duration (one-way): Three hours
- Highways travelled: North on Hwy 12 from Whitby then east on Winchester Road in Brooklin. North on Grandview Street then east on Columbus Road toward Enniskillen. North on Hwy 57 in Enniskillen then northeast on Hwy 7A to Hwy 35. East on Hwy 7 to Hwy 36, heading northeast to Hwy 36 and then taking Hwy 17 East. Head back onto Hwy 36 to Hwy 507. In Buckhorn take Hwy 503 west to Gooderham.

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Globally professional. Learn how to work with your international colleagues

LAKSHMI GANDHI
Metro World News

Because of the increased globalization of the business world, it's not unusual for many office workers to have colleagues who live in far-flung places around the world.

But constantly video-conferencing and emailing with people you may never meet in person has its challenges, especially if you know nothing about the cultural mores of your new colleagues. In her new book, The Culture Map: Breaking Through the Invisible Boundaries of Global Business, author and business professor Erin Meyer provides readers with a blueprint for navigating the sometimes-rocky road of cross-cultural business relations.

"What I say to my MBA students is that if you want to be successful in the future, you have to develop the skills to understand and ask the question: 'How do I motivate my employees in different parts of the world?'" says Meyer.

Uncertain about how you can develop a successful partnership with a team of software engineers in India or a group of accountants in Sweden? Meyer says that a good manager can make things run smoothly despite been oceans away.

Skype has made connecting with colleagues from afar much simpler. ISTOCK

Know when to call and when to email

"If you can talk over the phone in order to build up that initial connection before you move to email, that's always better," says Meyer. "And even better than that is if you can do Skype, because once people have seen your face, then you can use that opportunity to get to know them a little bit and then you can move to more task-oriented media like email."

Try to break the ice

Sometimes it's not possible to ever meet your co-workers face-to-face, but that doesn't mean you can't make a connection. Meyer shares a story of how one manager broke the ice with his team of young Indian programmers by sending them YouTube videos of the latest pop songs, saying, "I love this song, this is what I love about it, it's really hot in India right now — what do you think?" explains Meyer.

Acknowledge your mistakes

Unintentionally making an offensive remark happens, but there are ways to fix the damage. It is key to acknowledge your clumsiness and be open to change. Meyer says one of the managers she talked to won his team over with honestly. "It just didn't occur to us that people in other parts of the world might be more focused on giving a softer relationship approach to things," he says.

Converse with care

> **"People love to talk about cultural differences, as long as you make it sound like you think the other culture is positive and you talk your own culture in a humble way."**
>
> Erin Meyer
> Author and professor

Don't be afraid to ask about cultural differences

Sometimes the best way to avoid a cultural conflict is to simply talk to a trusted colleague about what you should do. "People love to talk about cultural differences, as long as you make it sound like you think the other culture is positive and you talk your own culture in a humble way," says Meyer.

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How not to cringe when the clock ticks

It's time to talk about it. Succeeding at both work and play without compromising the quality of either one

LEAH RUEHLICKE
TalentEgg.ca

Time: It's limited, but it's yours to use wisely. ISTOCK

People tend to associate busy with stressful. However, busy is also beautiful because it can mean that a person has found multiple hobbies, people and causes to be passionate about — to the point that they want to make time for all of them.

We've all heard the saying, "If you want something done, give it to a busy person."

Busy people are busy because they know how to prioritize and manage these multiple priorities.

From getting As on essays to working your way up in the workplace to staying in shape and maintaining friendships — it's easy to overload your plate. Plus, you've still got to sleep and eat and find time to pick up the phone and call Grandma.

So how do you manage it all properly?

Be realistic

You can't do everything, but you can do a lot.

You just need to take a good hard look at where your time is going (and where it should be going). If you're thinking of taking a 6 a.m. kickboxing class before work, look at what you're doing around 10 p.m. each night.

Are you wasting an hour scrolling through Facebook? If so, cut that, and head to bed early so you can tack this class onto your list.

If you're using your evening to get readings done, perhaps this isn't something you can cut — meaning the kickboxing class might have to take a backseat for the time being. Tip: Schedule in your biggest priorities first — everything else gets bonus time.

Love what you're doing

We all have to do things we don't want to do (a.k.a. every first year psych assignment that was ever invented), but surround these things with things you love doing.

- Find classes you enjoy.
- Surround yourself with people you genuinely care about.
- Find passion in your work.

To put it simply, if you look forward to your life every day, your "busy" will get a lot less stressful.

Tip: Find ways to love the things you have to do, be it taking interesting electives or timing your commute so you're with your friend rather than your iPod.

Gimme a break

Your body (and your brain) need fuel in order to be productive

So, take the time to top up. This can be as simple as drinking lots of water, or taking coffee breaks to get outside for a minute and feel those golden rays.

Or, buckle down even more and try things like turning your phone on silent and checking it every few hours instead of constantly glancing over and getting lost in distraction.

Knowing you have a break (and some caffeine) in your future makes your work time that much more productive — meaning you get done faster and that final break can last a whole lot longer.

Tip: Consider your brain to be like an eight-hour workday. At work you get multiple breaks to take a few minutes to yourself, rejuvenate, and fuel up. Your brain needs the same treatment in order to stay sharp and productive.

Get creative

Call your Mom on your walk to work.

Utilize your time on public transit to read the paper or memorize your lines for the school musical.

Sign up for a volleyball team with your friends, combining workout time with social time.

Move your "bedtime" up a half-hour so you have a half-hour allotted for that book you've been meaning to read. Find ways to utilize the time you naturally have, and your To Do list just got cut in half.

Tip: Find ways to fill your "hidden time" — leaving your real time open for the things you really want to do.

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

Buy a day planner

Use a day planner to write down all your appointments, coffee dates, essay deadlines, etc.

- On Sunday nights open the planner to see where you need to allocate your energy for the coming week, and then plan your free time.
- If you have class Monday morning and evening but the afternoon is wide open, do you have assignments you need to finish? Apartments you need to hunt for?
- What about grocery shopping? Or could you meet a friend for lunch and save the groceries until Tuesday?
- Figure out what fits where — and stick to it.

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Volunteering introduces you to a whole new pool of people. If there's a particular organization you're interested in working with, get in touch and ask how you can contribute. ISTOCK

Putting yourself out there is tough. Meeting new people is intimidating, networking is exhausting, and you can't shake the fear that your attempts to meet new people are perceived as annoying.

However, roughly 80 per cent of jobs are never even advertised, which means that creating your own opportunities is a great way to build your career — but where do you start? How can you successfully master this market and push yourself forward (without being, well, pushy)?

Get the right attitude

You won't get anywhere if you're held back by doubt.

Yes, networking can be awkward, and looking for new opportunities around every corner may make you feel like a creep.

Remember, if you approach each situation in a clear and direct way, no reasonable person will find your requests for information or inquiries off-putting.

Tip: It's good to be prepared for a certain amount of disinterest. Some people just won't want to engage with you — and that's OK.

Give as much as you take

Leveraging your contacts is a great way to find out about opportunities.

Not only will you benefit from an expanded network, you'll have a decent chance of a referral or "in" in the form of your connection.

However, you can't ask for favours without being willing to dish out yourself. Want to take someone for coffee to pick their brain? Have something to offer in return.

Tip: Don't just blindly suggest lunches to every contact you know. Have a question they can specifically answer, or seek information they in particular can provide you with.

Navigate the social job market

Building up your social presence will introduce you to others on social who may be able to help you out. Well-positioned experts in your chosen field usually have a good sense of where hot new opportunities are hiding. There's an added benefit here: employers will look you up online before hiring you for anything. Ensure your social presence is just as notable as your real one.

Tip: Be professional — but let your personality shine through. For example, share articles you find informative, but expand on why it resonated with you in the first place.

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Cinnamon twirls crown a cobbler

Stovetop Mixed Berry Cobbler. Traditionally topped with pastry, this cobbler comes with a cinnamon pastry twist

DINNER EXPRESS
Emily Richards
food@metronews.ca

FLASH FOOD

From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

Market time is always the best time because you can find delicious and local produce you will want to incorporate into one of your meals right away!

Be sure to look around your city for various farmers' markets and find out what's best and in season right now.

Talk to the vendors — they always have great recommendations on what to do with in-season produce.

Check city hall, libraries or community centres as well as farms to find out when these markets are on and what they will be bringing that week.

In Canada, we are lucky that at certain times of the summer we can combine some wonderful produce to make awesome stir-fries, soups, pastas and, of course, dessert!

Seasonal fruit is a great way to enjoy dessert through the week and, of course, planning ahead will allow you to sneak in a little more sweet treat into this bowl of goodness.

Take a mix of fresh berries, for example, and create an easy Stovetop Cobbler that will combine the best of summer flavours.

This cobbler is great on its own, with ice cream or with the cinnamon twirl sticks in the recipe.

Cobblers usually have the pastry right on top of the fruit. This recipe leaves the pastry off to the side so you can see the vibrant colour of the berries.

A crisp puff pastry cinnamon stick is the perfect choice.

Ingredients

Cinnamon Sticks
- 1 pkg (400 g) frozen puff pastry, thawed
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) butter, softened
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) granulated sugar
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) ground cinnamon

Cobbler
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) butter
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) granulated sugar
- 2 cups (500 ml) sliced fresh strawberries
- 2 cups (500 ml) fresh blueberries
- 1 cup (250 ml) fresh blackberries
- 1 tsp (5 ml) ground cardamom or cinnamon
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) cornstarch
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) orange liqueur or juice

You can make the cinnamon sticks ahead of time and crisp them up again in the oven before serving the cobbler.

Cooking the berries on the stove helps retain their juiciness and their shape.

You can also try combining some chopped fresh peaches or plums with the strawberries. Simply make sure the total amount is 5 cups (1.25 l) of fruit.

This recipe makes six servings. EMILY RICHARDS

Directions

1. Cinnamon Sticks: On lightly floured surface, roll out frozen puff pastry to 14 inch by 11 inch (35 cm x 28 cm) rectangle. Spread the pastry evenly with butter. Sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon. Fold pastry over and roll gently to push together. Cut into 16 strips and twist each strip to place on parchment paper lined baking sheet. Bake in 425 F (220 C) oven for about 15 minutes or until golden brown. Set aside.

2. Cobber: In a large shallow saucepan, melt the butter and granulated sugar over medium heat. Add the strawberries, blueberries, blackberries and cardamom or cinnamon.

3. Bring to a simmer, stirring occasionally for about 10 minutes or until berries release juices and soften slightly. Whisk the cornstarch and orange liqueur together and stir into berry mixture and cook for 1 minute or until thickened.

4. Serve the Stovetop Mixed Berry Cobbler with cinnamon sticks.

Want to meet Emily?

Head down to Nathan Phillips Square today at noon to catch Metro Columnist Emily Richards at Fresh and Tasty Wednesdays where she will make this cobbler. Yes, you'll be able to sample it as well!

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TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION

SPORTS 4

Kadri shooting for spike in production

NHL. Leafs centre says he expects his output 'to go up every year'

Maples Leafs centre Nazem Kadri says he's working on his shot's effectiveness in order to boost his production.
GETTY IMAGES FILE

Nazem Kadri will be at the Air Canada Centre Wednesday to join in the latest episode of the Ice Bucket Challenge craze taking the NHL by storm.

But in about three weeks, he hopes to be making a different kind of splash — at Maple Leafs training camp. And he says he's been working harder than ever this summer to elevate his game to another level.

"I'm working hard on my shot and my release right now," Kadri said Tuesday in a conference call with CCM Canada, which is releasing its new state of the art helmet, the Resistance Helmet.

"There's some new tech at the (Leafs' practice facility), it focuses on shooting and passing the pucks like in a game, and tests your release and how you shoot, where you shoot. I'm trying to get stronger there this year because that's where the production comes from."

Kadri certainly hasn't missed what has been a busy off-season for the Leafs, one filled with changes to the front office and to the roster itself. Several key players were let go, among them Dave Bolland, who was considered a direct challenger to Kadri's status as a No. 2 centre.

But the changes — the addition of experienced defencemen and depth forwards — addressed weaknesses in a roster that lacked consistency, had disappointing results and a failed to make the playoffs.

"Brendan Shanahan and Dave Nonis have done a great job ... some people might say (the team is getting older), but a playoff team needs those guys, and having second- and third-line scoring is not only what gets you into the playoffs but it gets you deep into the playoffs," Kadri said.

"My expectation for myself is to go up (in production) every year.

"No one has higher expectations of me than me, so I'm working as hard as I can to get there ... There's no ceiling on potential — it's me trying to be as good as I want to be."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

GM's right-hand man

The Toronto Maple Leafs have hired Brandon Pridham as the assistant to general manager Dave Nonis.

- Pridham, who was with the NHL as senior director of central registry and central scouting, will "assist with salary cap analysis, contract negotiations and collective bargaining agreement interpretation," the team said Tuesday in a release.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leiweke denies claim

Tweet works Leaf Nation into a frenzy

It was a simple tweet, but it caused a storm of reaction during the Tuesday lunch hour on social media for Toronto sports fans and journalists, prompting a denial less than 40 minutes later by Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment.

Longtime Hockey Night in Canada reporter Elliotte Friedman tweeted at 12:48 p.m. that Tim Leiweke, who joined MLSE just last year to be its president and CEO, was moving on.

Tim Leiweke
GETTY IMAGES FILE

"Hearing MLSE president/CEO Tim Leiweke will be leaving the company soon. (1/2).

"Not sure of where he's going, but hearing the reason is he is looking for a new challenge."

Friedman has 173,000 followers, and a number of them weighed in with their opinion on Leiweke's legacy, or his next move.

Soon the term "Tim Leiweke" was trending worldwide.

All this buzz prompted MLSE to email a denial to media outlets by 1:25 p.m.

"Any report stating that I am leaving MLSE is untrue. We are completely focused on the seasons at hand and I am not thinking of anything else but that. I am proud of all that we have accomplished here over the past year, but we have much more to do," Leiweke said in the statement.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Settlement reached in Bertuzzi-Moore lawsuit

Steve Moore's lawsuit was scheduled to go to trial Sept. 8. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

A settlement has been reached in Steve Moore's lawsuit against NHL forward Todd Bertuzzi, more than 10 years after the infamous on-ice attack ended Moore's career.

Geoff Adair, a lawyer for Bertuzzi, confirmed the case has been "settled in its totality," but said the terms are confidential.

The multimillion-dollar lawsuit had been scheduled to go to trial Sept. 8.

"We are pleased that the resolution of this matter allows the parties to turn the page and look to the future," NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly said in an email.

Media reports later Tuesday suggested there was a snag in finalizing the deal, but Adair did not respond to followup requests for comment.

Messages seeking comment from Moore's lawyer, Bertuzzi's agent and the Canucks were not returned Tuesday.

The notorious hit happened on March 8, 2004. Bertuzzi, then playing for the Vancouver Canucks, hit Moore from behind, sending the hapless Colorado Avalanche rookie crashing face-first to the ice and leaving him with a concussion and fractured vertebrae. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A marked man

Steve Moore alleged the Canucks had put a bounty on his head following his check that left their captain Markus Naslund injured.

NFL. Bills' sale enters its final phase: Report

The sale of the National Football League's Buffalo Bills is entering its final stage, with prospective buyers asked to submit their formal bids in about two weeks, a person familiar with the sale process told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

"It's coming down the backstretch," the person said, speaking on the condition of anonymity because the sale is being conducted privately.

The timetable was pushed back about a week because Morgan Stanley, the banking firm overseeing the sale on behalf of late owner Ralph Wilson's estate, extended a deadline last month in an attempt to increase the number of prospective bidders.

A new owner is still expected to be identified by October, but it's not certain whether it will be in time to be approved by NFL owners at league meetings in early October. And that approval would come only after the prospective candidate's background and finances are vetted and approved by the league's finance committee.

The Bills are for sale after Wilson died in March.

Buffalo Sabres owners Terry and Kim Pegula are considered the front-runners among a small group of candidates who have already met with members of Wilson's estate over the past two weeks. Pegula has the backing of a majority of Buffalo public and business leaders because he is committed to keeping the Bills in western New York. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Heavyweights

The bidders' list includes:

- Jon Bon Jovi, Larry Tanenbaum (chairman of MLSE) and the Rogers family
- Terry and Kim Pegula, owners of the NHL Buffalo Sabres
- New York City real estate developer Donald Trump
- Former Sabres owner Tom Golisano

Looking for that lost mojo

Carlos Gomez of the Milwaukee Brewers hits a double in the top of the first inning against the Toronto Blue Jays during their interleague game at Miller Park on Tuesday night in Milwaukee, Wis. The Jays were looking for a win to help them in their chase for a playoff spot. Go to metronews.ca for the game's result. MIKE MCGINNIS/GETTY IMAGES

Former TFC player

Cesar signs with Benfica

Benfica announced Tuesday that it has signed Brazil goalkeeper Julio Cesar from English Premier League club Queens Park Rangers on a two-year deal.

Cesar had been on loan to Toronto FC since February after playing only occasionally under Rangers' coach Harry Redknapp. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Biting

Suarez: 'I won't do that anymore'

Luis Suarez says Barcelona's fans needn't worry — he won't bite again.

Barcelona unveiled Suarez on Tuesday, an event delayed for over five weeks due to his latest suspension for biting an opponent at the World Cup.

Suarez has had three multi-match suspensions for biting an opponent and has also been suspended for making racist remarks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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2014 Dodge Caravan

- **Type:** Four-door, front-wheel-drive full-size minivan
- **Engine:** 3.6-litre V6 (283 hp)
- **Transmission:** Six-speed automatic
- **Base price:** $27,995 (plus destination)

Market position

Most automakers have abandoned minivans, but they're still practical for many buyers. Most find them easier to access than a crossover or SUV, especially if you have a lot of people and cargo.

Points

• The third row folds flat in the floor, and can also be flipped backwards for "tailgate seating" when the van is parked and the liftgate is up.
• An Eco setting adjusts the engine and transmission response for improved fuel economy, although it diminishes performance.
• The dash-mounted shift lever allows for more cargo space in the centre console.

The front seats are set high and forward, so check your leg room.

Interesting features

Fold-into-the-floor second-row seats; trailer sway control; easy-clean floor mats; driver's knee airbag; tire pressure warning; available heated steering wheel.

Pioneer still leads pack

Review. Dodge Grand Caravan shines with its low price, convenience and multi-use interior

JIL MCINTOSH
drive@metronews.ca

PHOTOS: JIL MCINTOSH

Back in 1984, Chrysler wowed the auto world with its new Magic Wagon minivan. Families couldn't get enough of this practical machine and, pretty soon, just about everybody was offering one.

Eventually, though, they were displaced by the rising popularity of SUVs and crossovers. Only a few are offered today, including the original — the Dodge Grand Caravan.

It starts at $27,995 for the base Canada Value Package trim, although various incentives bring its selling price much lower. My tester was the SXT Plus, which starts at $34,495 before rebates, and includes second-row Stow 'n' Go bucket seats that fold into the floor, a feature found exclusively in Chrysler's minivans (the Grand Caravan is also sold as the upscale Chrysler Town & Country).

Mine also had such add-on options as a rear-seat DVD system, power sliding doors and liftgate, navigation, satellite radio, and a front-seat floor console with a pull-out rear storage drawer.

Those second-row seats fold into under-floor bins that can be used for hidden storage when the seats are upright, but to accommodate them, the front seats are set forward and high. I didn't have any issues, but my taller husband complained that his knees were too close to the dash. Check the fit of all front-seat folks before you sign on the dotted line.

All Grand Caravans use a 3.6-litre V6 engine that makes a healthy 283 horsepower, and does a great job of moving the van around, even when it's fully packed with passengers and gear.

It's mated exclusively to a six-speed automatic transmission. The steering is smooth and quick to respond, and is pleasant to drive, and although the ride's slightly harsher than that of its Japanese rivals, it's still OK.

The Grand Caravan scores well with a starting price below its rivals, its easily configurable interior, and lots of convenience features to make it easy to get the family where everyone needs to go. Minivans may not be as popular anymore, but they're still just as useful.

Compare

1 Toyota Sienna
Base price: $29,120
The smooth-riding Sienna is the only minivan that can be ordered with all-wheel-drive.

2 Honda Odyssey
Base price:$31,078
Honda's V6 engine shuts off some of its cylinders when cruising for fuel economy.

3 Ford Transit Connect
Base price: $30,499
Ford outfits cargo van with windows, seats and features as a minivan alternative.

What test car is Garry bringing us this week? We literally have no clue what he's bringing us until it lands in our driveway, but who are we to doubt Garry Sowerby, who has a bazillion Guinness records for around-the-world driving? That's a bazillion more than we have, after all. Come along and find out as we drive 'em, dirty 'em and shoot 'em with our phone cams. These are real-life, no-glam reviews.

.JEFF MELNYCHUK
wheelbasemedia.com

Big and powerful Silverado HD way more truck than most need

Special delivery. Designed for heavy lifting and towing, I felt like a poser driving this behemoth to the coffee shop in surfer shorts and flip-flops

The 2015 Chevy Silverado 2500 HD is built for pulling boats and horse trailers, or hauling big rocks, probably all at the same time. JEFF MELNYCHUK

This thing is a monster. Huge. Garry says it's proportioned like an off-shore race boat, only backwards.

I'm not so sure about that, but for the first time in a long time, I have no way to properly evaluate a vehicle that Garry has dropped on the doorstep.

Like, at all. I usually write about "normal" passenger cars and not farm implements, so testing this one is a bit of mystery.

This new-for-2015 Chevrolet Silverado HD 2500 has a four-door cab and an eight-foot box — a long and rather unusual combination — and is built for pulling boats and horse trailers and hauling big rocks, probably all at the same time.

Guess I'll take it to get ... a coffee, then.

The truth is that most light-duty trucks are far too capable for the people who buy them. So who really needs a heavy-duty truck? Someone must.

Hopping up — way up — and in with my flip-flops and surfer shorts and T-shirt, I feel like a poser. A total fraud. I need overalls, workboots, and a hard hat or a stetson to operate this baby. The proper uniform is a must.

It seems ridiculous to even drive this $76,110 2500 HD — a vehicle that can tow about nine metric tonnes — without something other than a 12-ounce dark-roast coffee as the ultimate payload. But off we go. It's like flying around in an empty cargo plane to deliver a letter.

As capable as I'm sure this truck is — since there is no real way for me to test it out — it's like living with an elephant and not a vehicle. It won't fit it any garage that has a closing door. It has to live outside.

This giant truck won't fit in your garage, or most parking spots.

The eight-foot truck bed is twice as long as the four-door cab.

Nor does it fit in any normal parking spot, whether at the mall, on the street or at the coffee shop.

Let me make this clear: You can park it at home, at the job site and at the very back of the mall lot, next to all the those weird vacationers overnighting with their motorhomes. But that's pretty much it.

The nice part about this particular Silverado HD is that it's decked out inside with luxury-like trappings. For more than $75,000, one would expect nothing less, except the door panels are just functional plastic. The base price is $50,920.

And despite a stiff suspension needed to control the motion of immense payloads, the HD rides pretty well, without hopping around, partly because the distance between the front and rear wheels is 14 feet, which is longer than the average compact sedan.

The interior is decked out with all the luxury trappings you would expect to find in a $75,000 vehicle.

Of all the options, the 397-horsepower Duramax Diesel engine (with 765 lb.-ft. of torque) is the most expensive, and useful, at close to $10,000. It clobbers the base gasoline V8.

The Allison six-speed automatic transmission adds $1,445. The $1,600 polished 20-inch wheels cost nearly as much as the Z71 off-road package.

Because you're dealing with a huge truck, every add-on is bigger, with a matching cost. But most, like the back-up camera, climate control and Bose audio system, are much appreciated.

Unfortunately, most of the real capability of this truck will go to waste, even by people who actually need such a workhorse. Even more so for someone like myself, with his piping-hot 12-ounce cup of dark-roast riding around in the cupholder.

Bang for the buck

- Wow: The real deal for pickups, pretty imposing, surprisingly smooth ride, built for real work, towing capacity, gets coffee no problem, diesel rocks.
- Hmm: You need to change your parking habits, all the good stuff costs extra — like 10 grand for the diesel.

Ready for anything

"Unfortunately, most of the real capability of this truck will go to waste, even by people who actually need such a workhorse."

Jeff Melnychuck
wheelbasemedia.com

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JUSTIN PRITCHARD
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There's an all-new Sonata arriving at Hyundai dealers for 2015, meaning the 2010 to '14 generation of this break-out family sedan is now transitioning into used-car territory. Key competitors include the Honda Accord, Chevrolet Malibu, Toyota Camry, Ford Fusion and Mazda6.

Look for an advanced navigation system, proximity key with push-button start, full multimedia connectivity, heated leather seats, paddle shifters, a sunroof, automatic climate control and more. A 400-watt Infinity stereo system was available on high-end models, too.

CONTRIBUTED

Test Drive

If equipped with push-button start, ensure it works with all available key-fobs.

Several owners have complained about the difficulty of keeping this generation of Sonata centred in its lane at highway speeds, likely due to the calibration of the steering system, which is light, lazy and has no on-centre feel. The soft-set suspension doesn't help, either. Some owners have had the steering system reprogrammed to be stiffer.

Although relatively rare, some owners have reported issues with their transmissions, from hard shifting and clunking right up to transmission failure and replacement under warranty.

Test your used car with an eye for unwelcome transmission behaviour during light, moderate and hard acceleration, and have any surprises, roughness or odd sounds checked out.

Other issues include premature starter motor failure, stinky air conditioner output, and a high-pressure fuel pump that's pricey to repair if it fails. The Check Engine light may illuminate if the pump is on its way out, so be on the lookout.

You should also confirm the frequency of oil changes, especially on the turbo, since fresh oil is key to turbocharger life.

What owners like

Relative bang for the buck, overall value, a sense of on-board space and a gutsy four-cylinder base engine were all rated highly.

What owners dislike

Some owners wish for more steering feel, a faster reacting manual-shift mode, and a more-pleasing sound from the engine, which tends to sound dull and uninspired when pushed.

Engines

Hyundai's Theta II four-cylinder engine with direct gas injection serves up 198 horsepower from the 2.4-litre four-cylinder engine, and a turbocharged 2-litre four-cylinder offers V6-like horsepower of 274 hp. All models have a six-speed transmission. A hybrid gas-electric model was also available, but we'll cover that one in a separate report.

The verdict

A last-generation Sonata seems to be a worthy bet as a used car, if comfort, space and upscale design are priorities. Although not issue-free, most of the more common problems should be easily identified on a test drive and easily addressed by a mechanic.

Distracted driving. One-third of young drivers admit to selfies behind wheel

Young British drivers are the most likely in Europe to snap a smartphone self-portrait when they should have two eyes on the road and two hands on the wheel.

In a survey of 7,000 18-to-24-year-olds across Europe, 50 per cent admitted they had taken a photo while driving, while one in four said they had taken a selfie.

Although the worrying trend is most prevalent in the U.K., 28 per cent of German and French respondents also said they'd snapped themselves behind the wheel, putting them in joint second place. At the other end of the scale, Belgian drivers were the least likely to take a selfie (17 per cent).

Away from snapshots, 25 per cent of respondents have accessed social media sites while driving. Yet when asked if they thought such activities were dangerous, 95 per cent said "yes."

Ford, which commissioned the survey, is more than a little concerned by the findings. It calculates that snapping a selfie takes an average of 14 seconds, while a quick glance at a social media site takes 20 seconds. If a car is travelling at 100 km/h, that means that every 20 seconds it has covered a distance of 555 metres — the equivalent of more than five Canadian football fields — all while the driver is looking away from the road.

A similar study in 2012 found that talking on the phone was young drivers' biggest crime — 44 per cent of all respondents admitted to doing so, with Russian and Swedish drivers (70 per cent) being the most likely and U.K. drivers (15 per cent) the least likely. AFP

If you post to social media on the road, you might hit a post on the way. AFP

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Retail offers not combinable with any CPA/GPC or Daily Rental incentives, the Commercial Upfit Program or the Commercial Fleet Incentive Program (CFP). **Ford Employee Pricing ("Employee Pricing") is available from July 1, 2014 to September 30, 2014 (the "Program Period"), on the purchase or lease of most new 2014/2015 Ford vehicles (excluding all chassis cab, stripped chassis, and cutaway body models, F-150 Raptor, F-650/F-750, Mustang Shelby GT500, Shelby GT350, 50th Anniversary Edition Mustang and all Lincoln models). Employee Pricing refers to A-Plan pricing ordinarily available to Ford of Canada employees (excluding any Unifor/CAW -negotiated programs). The new vehicle must be delivered or factory-ordered during the Program Period from your participating Ford Dealer. Employee Pricing is not combinable with CPA, GPC, CFP, Daily Rental Allowance and AX/Z/D/F-Plan programs. *Until September 30, 2014, own a new 2014 (Focus S Manual 4-door sedan / Focus ST /Escape S 4-door FWD/ Escape Titanium 4x4 F-150 STX/F-150 SuperCrew 4x4 5.5' box 145" WB) for only ($14,344/$28,434/$24,494/$33,472/$24,327/$49,606). Prices shown include Total Ford Employee Price adjustment deduction of ($3,230/$3,230/$1,755/$3,977/ $9,172/$14,393). Total Ford Employee Price adjustment is a combination of Employee Price adjustment of ($620/$2,480 /$1,255/$2,735/ $2,422/$7,643) and delivery allowance of ($2,700/$750/$500/$1,000/$6,750/$6,750). Offers include freight and air tax but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. 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Qualifying customers will receive an incentive of CAD$1,000 towards the purchase or lease of the Eligible Vehicle, except for Mustang (excluding Shelby GT500) where qualifying customers will receive an incentive of CAD$1,500. Eligible Vehicle must be delivered and/or factory-ordered from your participating Ford dealer during the Program Period. Limit one (1) incentive per Eligible Vehicle sale, up to a maximum of two (2) separate Eligible Vehicle sales, per Qualifying Conquest/Loyalty Model. Each customer will be required to provide proof of ownership/registration and insurance of the applicable Qualifying Conquest/Loyalty Model (in Canada) for the previous 3 months and the ownership/registration address must match the address on the new Buyer's Agreement or Lease Agreement for the Eligible Vehicle sale. Taxes payable before incentive is deducted. ‡–Series is the best-selling pickup truck in Canada for 48 years in a row based on Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association statistical sales reports, up to December 2013. ¥Based on 2007 – 2013 and YTD April 2014 R. L. Polk vehicle registrations data for Canada in the Large Premium Utility, Large Traditional Utility, Large Utility, Medium Premium Utility, Small Premium Utility, and Small Utility segments. ±Claim based on analysis by Ford of Polk global new registration for CY2012 for a single nameplate which excludes rebadged vehicles, platform derivatives or other vehicle nameplate versions. ©2014 Sirius Canada Inc. "SiriusXM" the SiriusXM logo, channel names and logos are trademarks of SiriusXM Radio Inc. and are used under licence. ©2014 Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited. All rights reserved.

Toronto's Open Streets event closed portions of Yonge and Bloor to clear the way for pedestrians and cyclists. TORSTAR

Car-bike turf war seems destined to get more heated

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Autopilot. As cities work to ease gridlock and revitalize their inner cores, drivers will need to do a better job of sharing the road

AUTO PILOT
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How about that driver who was caught on camera a couple of weeks ago, driving down one of Vancouver's separated and dedicated bike lanes?

I guess I laughed when I saw the video on YouTube. It had a charming Charlie Chaplin vibe I thought.

But maybe I shouldn't have laughed — the driver's actions almost caused one pedestrian and one cyclist to invest in some rural real estate ("buy the farm").

At any rate, the video got me, and maybe a lot of others, thinking about the relationship between drivers and bicyclists.

They've always had an uneasy relationship, but things are looking to get even hairier in the next few years, as cities deal with gridlock and look to revitalize their inner cores.

To that latter point, this past Sunday morning, Toronto held a pilot project called Open Streets TO, where major portions of Bloor and Yonge streets were closed to vehicle use.

Similar Open Streets projects have been successful in other major cities, including New York, L.A., Paris and Mexico City.

I suspect most of the hard lines taken by either bike or car fundamentalists are a result of the nature of their relationship — the forced sharing of precious and finite resources, in this case, public pavement.

Nothing like a turf war to get your guard up.

The other element at play is that serious bicyclists and dedicated motorists tend to be born that way.

There are certainly converts going either way, but car people and bike people tend to be loyal to their respective teams.

Earlier this summer, I used my bicycle for part of my journey to Chrysler Canada, where I was to pick up a test vehicle.

I arrived at the same time as fellow auto scribe David Booth. He was aghast at my choice of transport and wanted to revoke my auto journalist decoder ring.

And consider this quote from Grant Peterson, the noted American bicycling advocate, author, and proprietor of Rivendell Bicycle Works:

"Every now and then, a reporter gets a bike commuter to say high gas prices drove him to it, but I'm skeptical.

"I think most people, shot full of truth serum, would agree that even $5 per gallon is a bargain for independent travel up to at least 60 miles, with all you can fit into a car, from delicate flowers and chandeliers to infants and elderly folks. Try doing that on a bike or public transport."

He adds his bicycle-commuting ways also have nothing to do with a desire to do something green.

He does it because he doesn't like driving, but loves bicycling, and loves how it keeps him fit.

These are "personal payoffs," he says, "not philanthropic or far-seeing green ones, and I think that's the same for anybody."

If the goal is to get more people out of their cars and onto bikes, he figures it will take much more than cheerleading and current gas prices.

For the most part then, people who love cars will keep driving them, and people who love bikes will keep riding them.

So we have lots of work ahead, to keep them both achieving their mutual goal of getting around, along with the biker's other goal of staying out of the ER department.

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The no charge extended warranty is the Nissan Added Security Plan ("ASP") and is administered by Nissan Canada Extended Services Inc. ("NCESI"). In all provinces NCESI is the obligor. NCESI offers a Gold and Platinum level of coverage. This offer includes the Gold level of coverage, be sure to see your local Dealer to identify the difference in coverage from a Gold to the Platinum level. Retail value of added security plan based on MSRP. $1,440/$1,380/$1,380/$1,440/1,655 for a new 2014 Nissan Sentra/2014 Versa Note/2015 Micra®/2014 Altima Sedan on all models except 2014 Altima Sedan 3.5 SL (T4SG14 NV00), CVT transmission. Dealers are free to set individual prices. ††CASH DISCOUNT: Get $2,250/$1,850/$4,000 cash discount on the cash purchase of any new 2014 Sentra models (except Sentra 1.8 S MT, C4LG54 AA00)/2014 Versa Note models (except 1.6 S MT, B5RG54 AA00)/ 2014 Altima Sedan models (except Altima Sedan 2.5 CVT, T4LG14 AA00. The cash discount is based on non-stackable trading dollars when registered and delivered between Aug. 1-Sept. 2, 2014. The cash discount is only available on the cash purchase, will be deducted from the negotiated selling price before taxes and cannot be combined with special lease or finance rates. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer. Conditions apply. ≠XRepresentative semi-monthly lease offer based on new 2014 Sentra 1.8 S MT (C4LG54 AA00), M6 transmission. 0% lease APR for a 39 month term equals 78 semi-monthly payments of $60 with $0 down payment, and $0 security deposit. First semi-monthly payment, down payment and $0 security deposit are due at lease inception. Prices and payments include freight and fees. Lease based on a maximum of 20,000 km/year with excess charged at $0.10/km. Total lease obligation is $4,641. $2,100 NCF Lease Cash, $300 in dealer contribution and $750 Bonus Cash from the My Nissan My Choice program included in advertised lease offer, applicable only on 2014 Sentra 1.8 S MT (C4LG54 AA00), M6 transmission through subvented lease through Nissan Canada Finance. This offer is only valid from Aug. 15 – Sept. 2, 2014, and to customers who whose the $750 Cash Bonus from the My Nissan My Choice program. Conditions apply. ±Representative finance offer based on a new 2014 Versa Note 1.6 S (B5RG54 AA00) manual transmission/2014 Altima Sedan 2.5 (T4LG14 AA00), CVT transmission. Selling Price is $14,949/25,407 financed at 0% APR equals 182 bi-weekly payments of $74/$129 for an 84 month term. $1,499/$1,999 down payment required. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $14,949/$25,407. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer. Conditions apply. *MSRP starting from $9,998/$15,748 for a 2015 Nissan Micra® 1.6 S (S5LG55 AA00), Manual Transmission/2015 Micra 1.6 SR (S5SG55 AA00), manual transmission excluding Freight and PDE charges and specific duties of new tires. ◆$11,432 Selling Price for a new 2015 Micra® 1.6 S (S5LG55 AA00), Manual Transmission. Conditions apply. ▲Models shown $25,899/$20,719/$17,282/$34,707 Selling Price for a new 2014 Sentra 1.8 SL (C4TG14 AA00), CVT transmission/Versa Note 1.6 SL Tech (B5TG14 NA00), Xtronic CVT® transmission/2015 Micra® 1.6 SR (S5SG55 AA00), Manual Transmission/2014 Altima Sedan 3.5 SL (T4SG14 NV00), CVT transmission. ◆±≠▲Freight and PDE charges ($1,567/$1,630/$1,400/$1,575), air-conditioning levy ($100) where applicable, applicable fees (all which may vary by region), manufacturer's rebate and dealer participation where applicable are included. License, registration, insurance and applicable taxes are extra. Lease offers are available on approved credit through Nissan Canada Finance for a limited time, may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers except stackable trading dollars. Retailers are free to set individual prices. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers, prices and features subject to change without notice. Offers valid between Aug. 1-Sept. 2, 2014. #Offer is administered by Nissan Canada Extended Services Inc. (NCESI) and applies to new 2014 Nissan Sentra models (each, an "Eligible Model") leased and registered through Nissan Canada Finance Services Inc., on approved credit, between Aug. 1-Sept. 2, 2014. from an authorized Nissan retailer in Canada. Offer recipient will be entitled to receive a maximum of six (6) service visits (each, a "Service Visit") for the Eligible Vehicle – where each Service Visit consists of one (1) oil change (using conventional 5W30 motor oil) and one (1) tire rotation service (each, an "Eligible Service"). All Eligible Services will be conducted in strict accordance with the Oil Change and Tire Rotation Plan outline in the Agreement Booklet for the Eligible Vehicle. The service period ("Service Period") will commence on the lease transaction date ("Transaction Date") and will expire on the earlier of: (i) the date on which the maximum number of Service Visits has been reached; (ii) 36 months from the Transaction Date; or (iii) when the Eligible Vehicle has reached 48,000 kilometers. All Eligible Services must be completed during the Service Period, otherwise they will be forfeited. The Offer may be upgraded to use premium oil at the recipient's expense. The Eligible Services are not designed to meet all requirements and specifications necessary to maintain the Eligible Vehicle. To see the complete list of maintenance necessary, please refer to the Service Maintenance Guide. Any additional services required are not covered by the Offer and are the sole responsibility and cost of the recipient. Offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain offers NCESI reserves the right to amend or terminate this offer, in whole or in part, at any time without prior notice. Additional conditions and limitations apply. Ask your retailer for details. °Nissan is the fastest growing brand in the non-luxury segment based on comparison of 12-month retail sales from July 2013 to June 2014 of all Canadian automotive brands and 12-month averages sales growth. †Based on GAC (AIAMC) Compact segmentation. All information compiled from third-party sources, including AutoData and manufacturer websites. July 30, 2014. ^Based on 2014 Canadian Residual Value Award in Subcompact Car segment. ALG is the industry benchmark for residual values and depreciation data, www.alg.com. +Based on GAC (AIAMC) Compact segmentation. All information complied from NR Can Fuel Economy data and third-party sources, including manufacturer websites. Gasoline engines only, excludes hybrids, diesels and electric vehicles. July 30, 2014. iPod® is a registered trademark of Apple Inc. All rights reserved. iPod® not included. Offers subject to change, continuation or cancellation without notice. Offers have no cash alternative value. See your participating Nissan retailer for complete details. ©1998-2014 Nissan Canada Inc. and Nissan Financial Services Inc. a division of Nissan Canada Inc.

Shift: From hybrids, technology, new vehicles and the environment, to saving money at the pumps

Australian students blast their way to a new world speed record

Students at the University of New South Wales in Australia have set a new world speed record for an electric vehicle. The team's Sunswift car averaged more than 100 km/h over a distance of 500 kilometres. The previous record for an electric car over the same distance, notes emerging-technologies magazine Gizmag, was a comparatively staid 73 km/h, established 26 years ago. The record run on a 4.2-kilometre circular track at the Australian Automotive Research Centre in Victoria is pending Federation Internationale de l'Automobile verification. If confirmed, the university says it will be the first time since 1984 that an FIA world record has been set in Australia.

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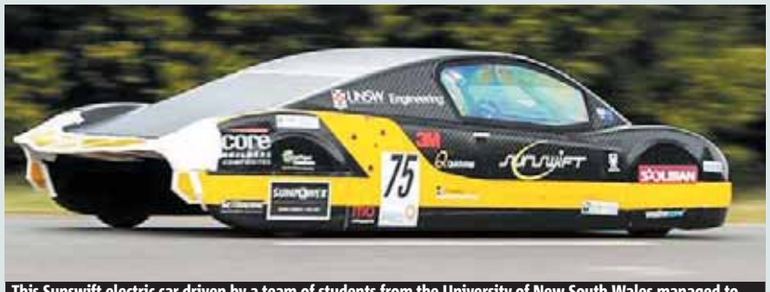

This Sunswift electric car driven by a team of students from the University of New South Wales managed to average more than 100 km/h over 500 kilometres, breaking a 26-year-old record.

Major revamp coming for Mazda2

With more than 2.4 million units sold worldwide since its 2002 debut, the Mazda2 four-door hatchback subcompact gets a major revamp for 2016. Having fully adopted Mazda's Kodo design concepts, it looks more like the Mazda3 except for size, especially up front with an over-sized grille, angled headlamps and sloped nose. The new 2 will offer buyers a choice of gasoline or diesel engines, featuring variations of Mazda's successful and economical Skyactiv powertrains. Included in the engine mix will be a 1.5-litre diesel Skyactiv, which will generate just 105 horsepower but will spin up an impressively strong 184 lb.-ft. of torque from as low as 1,500 r.p.m.

The new Mazda2 looks like a stubbier version of the Mazda3. Expect a diesel powerplant in addition to the usual gasoline option.

Shift points

- The next Toyota Prius will offer two battery choices — a low-cost nickel-hydride unit or a higher-end lithium ion pack — and possibly, reports Automotive News, an all-wheel-drive option.
- Ford is collaborating with seven automakers and 15 U.S. utilities to develop technology to allow plug-in electric vehicles to exchange information with energy providers. The opt-in, software-based program would help manage power and prevent grid overload by communicating directly with power companies.
- The original Mini, the 1960s car that set the template for tiny hatchbacks to come, is the best British car ever built, says a survey of Autocar magazine readers. McLaren's limited-production F1 supercar placed second, and the Jaguar E-Type was third.

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Honda

General Motors may add diesel option for its Cadillac Escalade

Cadillac is considering joining the growing ranks of diesel-powered sport-utility vehicles with its refreshed 2015 Escalade. The General Motors luxury division will expand the list of engine options for the Escalade, including offering a turbocharged diesel V6 and turbo gasoline V6. Both engines would be offered in addition to the 420-horsepower 6.2-litre V8 engine that comes from the Chevrolet Corvette. Industry watchdog Automotive News quotes Escalade brand manager David Schiavone as saying both a V6 turbo-diesel and a twin-turbo gas V6 engine would help sell the SUV in markets abroad, where fuel costs are up to three times higher than in North America. They would also help meet stricter new U.S. emission targets, he added.

A diesel option will improve the Escalade's fuel numbers and help sales abroad, sources suggest.

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HONDA

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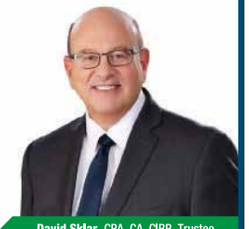

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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

metro AR

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Keep your ideas simple today. The more complicated your plans get the more likely it is they will end in failure. You don't need to do anything out of the ordinary at the moment.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You need to give others the impression you are not the sort who can be easily manipulated. Act tough today, even if you don't feel tough inside.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
If you find yourself getting emotional for no good reason over the next 24 hours, remind yourself of all the things you have to be thankful for.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You have a lot to think about and you can't think straight with so much noise going on around you. Find a quiet space you can call your own.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
If your inner voice tells you something today you must not ignore it. No matter what everyone else may be doing, if it does not feel right to you then give it a miss.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Stay where you are and don't start anything new today. You will get your chance to shine when the Sun enters your sign on the 23rd.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Don't try to stop a friend or relative from doing something you do not approve of. Most likely it will make them even more determined to do it, just to annoy you.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Don't give up on something just because you have grown bored with it. Use your intelligence to find ways to spice them up a bit.

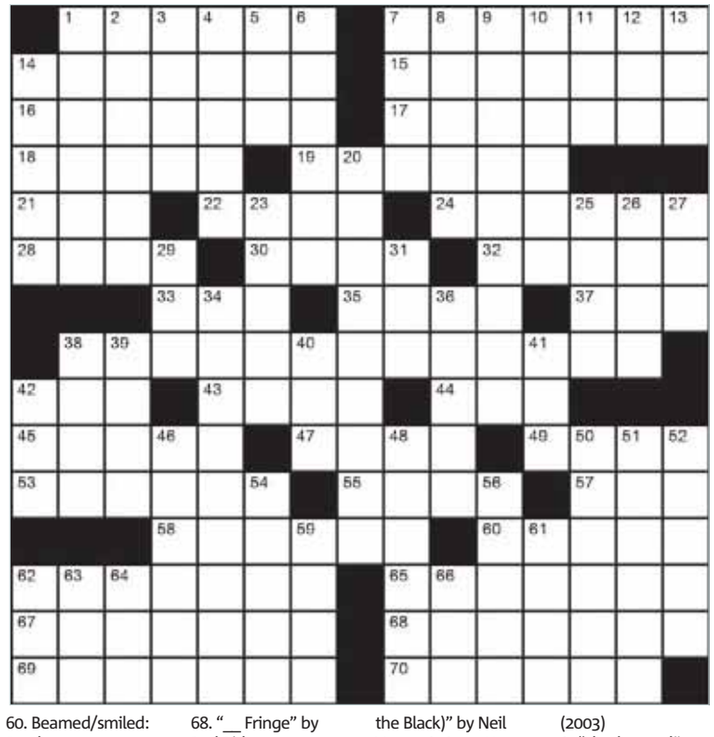
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The planets warn if you stick your nose in someone else's business you may have trouble getting it out again. Focus on what you enjoy and ignore everything else.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You appear to have pushed yourself a bit too hard of late and are beginning to feel the effects. Give yourself a break. Never mind about your work — it can wait.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
No matter what mistakes you have made, you must forgive yourself, and others, too. Grudges will hold you back.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Sometimes you can be rather stubborn and that could be a problem today if you refuse to abandon an idea that clearly is no longer worth defending.

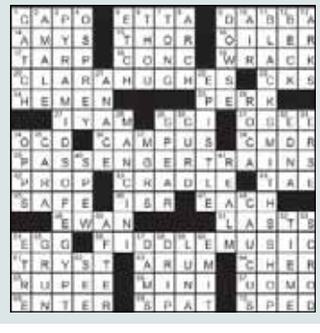
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Diner drinks
7. It's opened/closed by a driver: 2 wds.
14. Dish of the day
15. "What if God was..." Joan Osborne hit: 3 wds.
16. Julie __, Montreal-born astronaut
17. Scientific experiment critters: 2 wds.
18. Fall colour
19. Rocker Mr. Vedder's
21. Kicker's accessory
22. Sitarist, __ Shankar
24. They look like large alpacas
28. Vodka brand
30. Bartlett __
32. Movie critic Jeffrey
33. New newt
35. 1958 Leslie Caron title role
37. __ to Joy (Friedrich Schiller work)
38. 1982 Canadian slasher flick: 2 wds.
42. Ms. D'Angelo, to pals
43. Court plea, __ contendere
44. Green light buttons
45. Invigorating
47. Forecasting quotes, briefly
49. Small argument
53. Amazing store bargains
55. I, to Socrates
57. Antacid brand
58. Abhor
60. Beamed/smiled: 2 wds.
62. "__ of Alcatraz" (1962) starring Burt Lancaster
65. Lake __ (It's on the Ontario-Quebec border)
67. Cold country?
68. "__ Fringe" by Red Rider
69. It could go either way...
70. Backdrops

Down
1. Actress Sissy
2. "__ __, My My (Into the Black)" by Neil Young & Crazy Horse
3. Computer company
4. One flying a tailed toy, say
5. Gnaw
6. Vintage album's protection
7. "__ Mountain" (2003)
8. "I broke _ __!" (Manicuree's moan)
9. Arcade Fire song: "__ (Lies)"
10. Paris art museum, Musee _'__
11. Birds __ _ feather...
12. In deep sleep
13. Web feed syst. for updates
14. Commercials
20. Doctor's determination
23. Is __ __ (Most likely will)
25. Heathered expanse
26. Ampersands
27. Compass pt.
29. "Indeed!"
31. Trucking vehicle
34. Ken __, Winnipeg-born actor/filmmaker
36. Apparition
38. Green, to Gaston
39. Jazz vocalist Ms. Anderson
40. 'Tact' suffix
41. Battleship letters in The States
42. Blues guitarist Mr. King's
46. Aerosmith's "Back in the __"
48. Destroys
50. Diminutive
51. Jackal-headed Egyptian deity
52. Subject
54. TV holder
56. "Drop me _ __." (Write!)
59. Make __ meet
61. "I'd consider __ __ honour..."
62. Contracting proposal
63. Hockey surface
64. Particular political party person, puny-ly
66. Tampa Bay football player, briefly

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	1		5		7		6	
2								8
		6		2		4		
	8	4		7		3	5	
	6			5			4	
	2	5		1		8	9	
		2		9		6		
7								1
	9		4		8		2	

Yesterday's Sudoku

9	1	8	4	7	2	3	5	6
5	4	6	3	1	8	2	9	7
2	3	7	9	5	6	4	1	8
7	2	9	6	8	4	1	3	5
8	6	3	5	2	1	9	7	4
4	5	1	7	3	9	8	6	2
1	9	4	8	6	5	7	2	3
3	8	5	2	9	7	6	4	1
6	7	2	1	4	3	5	8	9

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Offer includes delivery, destination, fees, a $1,250 loan rebate† and a **$0 down payment.** Offer based on 2015 Rio LX MT (RO541F) with a purchase price of **$14,364**. Excludes HST.

Forte SX shown△ Cash purchase price $26,814 – hwy / city 100km^: 5.3L/8.0L

2015 FORTE LX MT

OWN IT! **$45** WEEKLY | **0%** FINANCING | FOR **84**≠ MONTHS | **+ EXTRA $500 CASH BONUS**

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2014 SEDONA

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EXTRA + $500

Sportage SX AT Luxury AWD shown^

2014 SPORTAGE

UP TO **$5,000** CASH BONUS*

EXTRA + $500

Rondo EX Luxury 7-seat shown^

2014 RONDO

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Forte Koup SX Luxury shown^

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